**Self-Directed Study**

**Honor’s Students: American Lit**

**Spring 2015**

“This is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. That you belong.”

-F. Scott Fitzgerald

Self-directed study is a method of self-development and personal growth. It involves choosing a problem or topic that has particular meaning for the individual and following it to a point where it satisfies his/her curiosity or need at the time.

**Purposes:**

* To enrich the curriculum for the more highly motivated, independent and self-reliant student
* To encourage students to pursue a self-directed, self-initiated intellectual inquiry.
* To give students the opportunity to develop good independent study habits and to learn to discipline their own time, a need expressed frequently by graduates in college.
* To put students in charge of their tasks and deadlines, so they are clear on what they need to complete and by when.
* To push students to think critically about the standards and come up with creative ways to achieve them.

**Steps:**

* Look over the ISSN “I Can” Statements for 10th Grade English Language Arts
* Look over the American Literature timeline
* Decide on a writer, time period or genre to study
* Decide what format your final project will take (screenplay, essay, powerpoint, collection of poetry, etc)
* Complete the proposal form, including:
  + Statement of Purpose
  + List of “I Can” statements the proposal satisfies
  + Outline of material to be read
  + Final project description
  + A schedule showing time to be devoted and dates for completion
  + A list of resources needed
  + Criteria for evaluation

**Requirements:**

* Each student will meet with Ms. FD approximately every three weeks
* Each student will create a google calendar with their proposal deadlines (once approved), which they will share with Ms. FD
* Students will earn points for completing each step of the proposal by the student-assigned date
* Keep in mind you will have approximately **10 weeks** to work on this project
* **All projects will be presented in front of the class the week of May 4th**

**PROPOSALS DUE: PER 3& 5 MONDAY, JAN 26TH PER 8 &10 TUES, JAN 27th**

**Self-Directed Study Proposal**

**Honor’s Students: American Lit**

**Spring 2015**

Name: Sara Finnegan-Doyon Class Period: 8

Please check one:

\_\_x\_\_ Yes, I really want to be in Honor’s.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No, I am just completing this proposal because of the assignment requirement.

**Statement of Purpose/Project Proposed:**

To study Joan Didion (a Contemporary American writer known best for her novels and literary journalism) and her work in depth and write my own pieces inspired by her writing.

**List of “I Can” Statements the Proposal Satisfies:**

* I can evaluate texts. This means that I can determine the importance or value of the ideas or arguments in a text.
* I can cite most textual evidence. This means that I can paraphrase, summarize, or quote from my sources, and explain the ideas and arguments accurately.
* I can follow a document citation method. This means that I can follow an appropriate document citation method and use it consistently.
* I can connect an author’s style to his/her cultural view. This means that I can describe how the author’s culture reflects the way he/she writes.

**Personal Goals and Objectives** (Why are you choosing this topic and format? Why does it matter?):

I read a short story by Joan Didion that I really liked. I want to read her book *The Year of Magical Thinking*, study her life and create a project inspired by what I learn.

**Description of the project in outline form:** (include material to be read, tasks undertaken and project created)

1. I will read *The Year of Magical Thinking*
   1. While I read the book, I will make keep a notebook where I jot down:
      1. Lines of her writing that inspire me
      2. Ideas for writing my own poems, short stories, etc inspired by her writing
      3. Ideas for a framework to connect my creative writing pieces together and make them cohesive

**Timeline:** Dates when various parts of work are to be completed **(at least 5 deadlines** not including the proposal deadline**)**. Final deadline is the week of May 4th when all projects will be presented in class. **You have approximately 10weeks to complete this project.**

Deadline 1: \_\_\_2/6\_\_\_ \_\_\_¼ of *The Year of Magical* read and notes in notebook

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 2: \_\_2/13\_\_ \_\_\_1/2 of *The Year of Magical* read and notes in notebook

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 3: \_\_\_2/20\_ \_\_3/4 of *The Year of Magical* read and notes in notebook

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 4: \_\_\_2/27\_\_\_ \_\_ALL *The Year of Magical* read and idea for framework

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 5: \_\_3/13\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_2 rough drafts of Creative Writing pieces

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 6: \_\_\_\_3/20 \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ 2 more rough drafts of Creative Writing pieces

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 7: \_\_\_\_4/14 \_\_\_\_\_ \_3 more rough drafts of Creative Writing pieces \_\_

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 8: \_\_\_\_4/24 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_edit and revise writing and put into framework\_\_

(Date) (what will be submitted)

Deadline 9: \_\_\_May 1st\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_All final edits made to project\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Date) (what will be submitted)

**Materials to be used:** Bibliography, types of research, films, artifacts, etc. Also what technology will you need to complete your project? Do you have the technology already or will you need help accessing it?

* At least two articles about Joan Didion or a biography on her
* *The Year of Magical Thinking*
* Access to a computer and printer—I can use the computer lab

**Criteria of Evaluation:** Please attach a rubric or other scoring guideline that specifies what components you will be graded on and how that grading scale looks. Be sure to include mechanics (spelling and grammar) as a part of your grade. (This piece is optional for the project proposal; I will help run a workshop on creating rubrics in February for students who need help with this piece)

I will find a rubric for grading my multigenre research project.

Please state the number of hours per week you plan to commit to your project: 1-3 (Recommended= 1-3hrs each week)

(You do not need to sign or have your parent sign until the project has been approved by Ms FD. Approved projects must be resubmitted with parent’s signature.)

Teacher Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_