

### Assignment 3: Unit Plan Overview and Rationale

#### Description:

For this assignment, you will begin thinking about what your unit plan might look like, what strategies you want to center the unit plan around, and how to use your anchor text (your young adult novel) within the unit. The goal of the unit plan overview and rationale is for you to provide a glimpse of what your major assessable goals are for the unit, a rationale for why your unit is important in the lives and learning of your students, and what strategies students will come away from your unit able to apply and adapt. **A Note to Add to your Unit Plan Assignment: The unit plan is for a 6-week unit!** In designing your learning targets and your rationale, you will want to keep this in mind; what do you think you can realistically get done in 6 weeks?

#### Components:

1. *Essential Question(s)*

What question(s) will students grapple with throughout your unit about the world, about humanity, or about their own lives? What thematic questions will orient your discussions towards particular themes or motifs from the texts you read and write?

2. *Unit Rationale*

Why is this unit important in the lives of your students? What will students come away being able to do that they weren't able to do before? This is your chance to "make your case" for your unit.

3. *Core Texts*

What will be the core texts of your unit? Obviously, your young adult novel will be one core text. Will there be other core novels? What other texts will you incorporate into your unit? Remember Marshall and Beach – what types of texts did they suggest that will align with the goals of your unit?

4. *Learning Targets and Rationales*

What are your major learning targets for the unit – i.e. what are your goals? What will students be able to do? What *reading, writing, speaking/listening, and language* strategies will students come away with at the end of your unit? Include at least one major learning target for each of these core ELA areas, along with an indication of how the learning target aligns with Common Core standards for your grade level and a short rationale for the learning target.

#### Assessment:

In my initial assessment of your overview and rationale, I will be looking for evidence that you have engaged the readings, especially Wiggins and McTeague's discussion of essential questions and Marshall and Beach's discussions of how to layer and combine texts within a unit. I will expect to see an effort towards articulating assessable goals that cover reading strategies, writing strategies, speaking and listening strategies, and language learning strategies, and that you have aligned those goals with the Common Core, but I expect these goals to change as we move through the planning of the unit, so if they need work, that's okay! In my final assessment of the overview and rationale, I will expect to see clear connections between strategies (such as writing and reading strategies), an expanded list of core texts that you will include in the unit, and a clear alignment between the ultimate assessments of the unit and your expressed objectives for the unit.