**Junior Research Project**

Here is an overview of the project. This is to let you wrap your brain around the overall concept of the paper. A more detailed handout will be provided next week, so don’t panic if you this one leaves you with some questions.

**Section 1:**

In this portion, you will be researching and compiling information to write an article on the topic of success and failure in America in relation to The American Dream. This section must be written in third person. Your sources s need to be current. Begin by taking a look at the traditional concept of The American dream, and compare/contrast that to our modern idea of what that represents. That’s a good starting point. Overall, think of this article as being divided into two main parts. The first will discuss how difficult it can be to be successful and earn a good living in modern times—the difficulty in reaching The American Dream in modern America. Identify factors that present hardships for working people in America today, as well as for young people leaving high school and looking to get started in life. Use statistics and figures in your discussions. (Hey—you already looked up a TON of information that can be used!) Then, focus on the internal factors that prevent people from being successful. This is where you formulate an analysis of WHY folks don’t reach the goals in life they had hoped/planned to.

The second part will be the flip side in which you explore what it takes to be successful in modern day America and what separates those who make it from those who don’t achieve what they had hoped. Identify and discuss the things “recipe” of reaching and attaining success…based on actual research and studies—NOT isolated exceptions to the norm. This section will be the heart of the paper, so be aware that you are expected to use information gathered to analyze and identify how people become successful.

Would you like a more specific breakdown of this section? You will get one in your hands on Monday. ☺

**Section2:**

In the second half of your paper, you will be creating a “life map” for yourself. This section should be written in first person. In it, you will choose a career for yourself (one you honestly see yourself doing—probably the one you previously wrote about.) Profile the career, identifying what the job entails, what is required to get the job, what the job market is like for people in this field, and also some of the pros and cons of the career. Discuss why you are interested in this career and why you believe you would be good at it. Shift your focus on the training/degree required. Elaborate on where you plan to get that training, what all is required for it (time, money, etc.), and how you will be paying for it. Then, using a graphic organizer, map out a breakdown of the next eight to ten years of your life, starting this June. (More on this next week.)

Remember, while you have to spend some time thinking and writing and doing a little bit of digging, you have already completed a large portion of any research that will be used to write this paper. (Assuming you kept up with our previous internet research activities the past couple months.) The whole thing will be due on May 20. A rough draft of either section must be turned in by May 8. The finished product must be bound in a 3-tab folder. (NOT a 3-ring binder.) You must keep up with the sources of all information used in either section. The project will follow MLA citation rules, so hopefully you have kept track of all the URLs I told you to keep. Take your time, don’t panic, and work on this bit by bit.