**“Native American Voices” Writing Portfolio**

**Ms. Dearinger—Fall 2019**

Over the course of this unit, we will explore the very first American voices—the poetry, storytelling, creation stories, fiction and non-fiction of Native Americans. We will examine a sample of creation stories and myths, experiment with the genre of oral storytelling, enjoy the beauty of native poetry (with a focus on U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo), and read Louise Erdrich’s haunting novel *The Painted Drum*. Since this course aims to explore and understand what it means to be an American by reading and analyzing voices from multiple perspectives and experiences, it is crucial that we begin our course with the very first American voices. Brilliant, emotional, imploring native voices will share their personal experiences of the past and present and their hopes in their continual struggle to be heard as valued American voices.

Throughout our reading of this collection of Native American voices, you will be given several writing assignments. The purpose of this portfolio is to give you an opportunity to experiment with different types of writing and to respond to the themes and styles of this unit’s authors in a variety of ways. Some of this writing will be done in class, but most will be done as homework on your own. You should complete each portfolio piece as it is assigned. At the end of the unit, the writing pieces will be arranged in a well- organized, high quality portfolio. You will earn credit based on completeness, adherence to the assignment, and depth and clarity of thought for each piece. One piece will be the STAR of your portfolio and should be your most polished, most accomplished piece, one that truly represents your best writing of the unit. **Please put the word STAR on the top of your chosen piece**. You will also include a cover sheet that introduces your work and explains how these pieces represent your best writing skills, as well as what you learned throughout this unit.

At the conclusion of this unit, we will hold an informal spoken word “competition” using the piece of writing you’re most proud of from this portfolio. Therefore, make sure you feel comfortable sharing at least one of your writing pieces with other members of the class.

\*\*See the back of this sheet for a complete list of the readings and paired writing assignments for your portfolio.\*\*

**Grading criteria**: Below is a list of criteria I will take into account as I am grading your final Portfolios. **This project is worth 150 points**, so you will want to make sure you understand the expectations clearly.

* **Turned in on time**
  + - The due date for your final portfolio is **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18.**
* **Adherence to instructions on daily writing assignments**
  + - Be sure to answer the questions and/or follow the prompts that are provided for you for each assignment, and make sure that every assignment is complete.
* **Creativity**
  + - Please be as creative as possible through style, voice, content, etc. for each assignment.
* **Presentation**
  + - Neatness and format are important for this assignment. Pieces in your final portfolio must be typed in MLA format. Include each entry on a separate sheet of paper in your portfolio. Make sure each piece has a heading. Your heading should include the following: title of piece, author and a brief recap of the specific task you were asked to perform. A cover page should also be included. More details will be provided as the due date approaches.
* **Writing conventions**
  + - Proofread your final portfolio before turning it in; points will be taken off for excessive spelling errors, grammar errors, incorrect word choice, etc. Remember this Portfolio should highlight writing skills in all respects.

**Native American Voices Unit**

***Readings and Assignments***

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| **Title of Reading and Author** | **Portfolio Writing Assignment** |
| 1.Selected Native American creation stories | Oral storytelling and reflection |
| 2. Poetry of Joy Harjo (Group 1) | Poetry Pastiche |
| 3. Poetry of Joy Harjo (Group 2) | Imagery Study |
| 4. Poetry of Joy Harjo (Group 3) | Reader Response  (based on IB Area of Exploration) |
| 5. *The Painted Drum* by Louse Erdrich | Literary Analysis |
| 6. *The Painted Drum* by Louise Erdrich | Reader Response  (based on IB Area of Exploration) |