**Searching for Justice— English 12 Research Project March-April 2015**

An Authentic Research Assignment—Conflict and Curiosity

Write a paper of 1,500--2,000 (6-8 pages) words that **informs the reader beyond commonplace knowledge of a subject**. The essay should show the depth of your investigation of a question or problem you are curious about. You will collect information from print and electronic sources that will help you focus your topic and you can also collect data through interviews, questionnaires or content analysis that can be displayed and analyzed as evidence. The following questions will help you become authentic researchers:

* What is research and how is it different from reporting?
* What is a researchable question?
* How do I do prepare a proposal for my research?
* How can do we evaluate our own success as authentic researchers?
* Where do I get information?
* How do I get data from a primary source?
* How do I display and analyze data?
* How do I present my paper using a style sheet? Modern Language Association (MLA)

Bonus Topic for County Competition—Focused on Maryland’s Eastern Shore

Research and present a topic for the Old Home Prize Essay contest. The contest requires seniors to explore little known facts or legends about Maryland’s Eastern Shore in a 6-8 page essay to increase awareness and interest in the life, culture and traditions of the area. This essay adheres to the Elsie W. Jackson Old Home Prize which is awarded yearly to the student in the senior class who writes the best essay that preserves unrecorded or little known facts and legends connected with Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

**Research Project Criteria:**

1. The essay should thoroughly discuss a narrowed topic.
2. The content of the essay shows evidence of research with MLA citations and a “Works Cited” page.
3. The research should include a sufficient number of authoritative works cited. The sources may include interviews as well as internet, database and print sources (6 sources or more and at least 60 note cards and varied sources).
4. The essay should present a logical and satisfactory development of controlling purpose of the writer. Length is 1500-2000 words (6-8 pages), double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman.
5. The paper should be written in standard, edited English in MLA format with page number and last name of the author on each page.
6. The paper should preferably be typed. A handwritten paper should be written double-spaced on one side of unlined paper in blue or black.
7. The paper must include a cover sheet containing the name of the student, title of the paper, name of the high school and date of submission.
8. The paper must be turned in with a rough draft, formal outline and all note and bibliography cards.