**The Weight of a Leader**

“Brutus and Caesar: what should be in that 'Caesar'?  
Why should that name be sounded more than yours?  
Write them together, yours is as fair a name;  
Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;  
Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with 'em,  
Brutus will start a spirit as soon as Caesar.”

--*Julius Caesar,* I.ii.142-148

Cassius raises a good point. Why is it that Caesar should be leader instead of Brutus or Cassius, when Caesar is just the same as the two of them? Regardless of whether or not he considers himself a god, Cassius himself has seen him with a fever and asking for water “as a sick girl” (I.ii.130).

This raises a question not just for Brutus and Cassius, but even for today. Why is it that some are in leadership and some are not? What sets people like Hillary Clinton or Bill Gates apart from the rest of the population? Is it some innate talent or skill, or is there perhaps something else to it?

Part One

In Malcom Gladwell’s book *Outliers*, he details many stories of men and women who are “outliers” of success, meaning they have gone above and beyond the ideas of a successful life—titans of industry or entertainment, those who exemplify achievement in certain fields. You will read an excerpt from his book wherein he describes the first step to these incredible stories on my Weebly.

When you’re finished, come up with your own example of an outlier. This can be any person, living or dead, who has defined success in their respective field. They should be well-known, one of the “big” names of that industry. *Please do not choose any current politicians*. It will make it difficult to continue the project if you do. Once you have that name, come up with a concise argument for your pod as to why they should use your outlier.

Pods will then discuss their outliers and choose ONE for them to use. They will submit this through a Google Form on my Weebly for approval, citing why they feel that this outlier is the best choice.

Part Two

Mr. Sellek has been overthrown as the emperor of English class, and it’s up to your pod to convince the classroom that your outlier would make the perfect fit for the new emperor. Using your approved outliers, pods will research and come up with an argument as to why this particular person should become the new leader. While you will be working in a group, each student will be graded individually. Because of this, each person will be responsible for a separate portion of the leader’s campaign. Divide up the responsibilities as follows:

* History of the Outlier’s Success (not their entire life story, but mostly based on their “way up”)
* Argument: Was their ability innate or learned?
* Argument: What would make them a good leader?
* Ethos, Pathos, Logos: To the class, why your individual should be this classroom’s leader (think of your audience)

Students will write their argument as a campaign video for a composition grade. You will then record your campaign in a video 1:30-3:00 for a speaking and listening grade. We will have a day of presentations and voting, and the pod whose outlier gets elected will get an immediate one hundred.

Presentation Rubric

Student is prepared, knowledgeable, and comfortable with their information……………5 points

Student is able to be heard, clear, and concise in their presentation………………………5 points

Student presents with confidence, avoiding habitual movement………………………….2 points

Student presents with conviction towards their outlier, citing multiple arguments……….3 points