

Social Issues

Spring 2020

Plescica

Unit One- Who Am I

Coming of Age and Adolescent Development. Who am I as a young adult? What kind of person am I and what kind of person do I want to be? How have I changed over the past few years? What are my rights and responsibilities as a teenager? Who or what has contributed significantly to my life thus far? What is happening to me and my body?

Unit Two- Wellness

Decision Making & Wellness. How do I make decisions, good vs. bad? What skills do I need to have in order to make better decisions. How does my mental and physical health affect my decision making? How do I deal with failure, disappointment, loss, and stress?

Unit Three- Drugs

What are the real dangers behind drugs, both legal and illegal? How does substance use and abuse affect the community in which I live? Where's the line between use and abuse? What does a person need to know and think about in order to make safe, healthy decisions about drugs?

Unit Four- Sexual Health

Relationships & Sexuality. Understanding relationships in my life and how to improve upon them, (family, friends, teachers, adults, unknown people). What is love? How do gender, age, communication style, trust, and security affect the relationships I have with others? Gender identity, anatomy, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and the consequences of premature sexual activity.

STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

Spiral Notebook & Folder- For this class you will need a 3-ring spiral notebook (100 pages) and a folder. Many handouts and readings will be glued into your notebook; therefore you are required to bring your notebook along with a glue stick and scissors to class with you each day. In this notebook you will address various writing prompts, learning logs and reactions to class discussions. At the end of each unit you will submit your notebook to be graded as it will serve as evidence to your level of understanding. You may use your Geography notebook from last semester.

Quizzes & Final- Quizzes will be centered on class readings, presentations, and discussions. They will be given at the end of every unit. These quizzes will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of various subjects material and allow you to analyze and apply

this information to yourself. The final exam will incorporate a thematic written response based upon our semester of learning and exploration.

The Architect of Hope- You will have total of 6 weeks to individually complete the A of H Project. You will select an individual who has positively contributed to society over the past 40 years and write a 6 page paper explaining and analyzing their achievements. This project will be due just before Spring Break. Nearly 50 percent of your grade will be based upon your weekly achievement of particular research goals; one of the core goals behind this project is to help you become better equipped in writing formalized reports.

Projects - Over the course of the semester you will be assigned several projects. For each project you'll be put on a team of students that the teacher has preselected. Projects will culminate in a group presentation or a written report. Not only will you be assessed on the quality of your finished project but you will be evaluated by your peers as to how much you contributed to the total combined group effort.

Community Service - You will not receive any points for this requirement; however, your grade will be reduced two full letter grades if you do not complete 10 hours of community service for a non-profit organization. You will be attending a community service orientation session in the Career Center, which will familiarize you with hundreds of options you have available to you in Marin County. Once you have completed your community service hours you will make a presentation to the class about your experience.

Social Issues requires you to

1. Respect the teacher & your classmates
2. Come to class on time and ready to work (bring your notebook every day).
3. Participate in class discussions and work collaboratively with other class members.
4. Complete the Architect of Hope Project.
5. Submit all unit notebooks assignments on time with all requirements fulfilled.
6. Be respectful toward other guest speakers and peer facilitators at all times!
7. Complete your 10 hours of community service with a non-profit organization.
8. This course will require you to be reflective and submit numerous thoughtful writings on a regular basis so please do not assume that there is only little work in Social Issues Class.

If you need additional help or clarification on a project, please feel free to come and see me or contact me via email. (415) 945-6200 ext.6280 email dplescia@tamdistrict.org