

GRADE 7 ELA UPDATE

"Today a reader; tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

January 2017

JANUARY'S CLASSROOM FOCUS

As we move into a new year, we shift to a new focus in grade 7: Argumentation. Most teenagers rarely examine the arguments they make for the beliefs that they hold. When they want a new video console, a later curfew, or to go to a party, they sometimes give little consideration to the other side of the argument.

This month we will examine famous speeches by former

President George W. Bush (9/11 attacks), former Vice President Al Gore (climate change), and Maya Angelou (eulogy for Coretta Scott King) to better understand the persuasive techniques and purposeful word choice people use in order to attract others to their positions.

We will also learn the difference between opinion, persuasion, and argumentation, as all have a place in



today's global society today. In the meantime, all students will be working with their teachers to determine an issue to research and argue over the next two months.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Who would have guessed that an argument could be an academic learning opportunity? The next time your teenager decides to challenge you, you can use some of the following questions to help him or her look at the issue objectively:

- *Is your evidence based on fact (logos), emotion (pathos), or a person's credibility (ethos)?*
- *Is your reasoning logical; does it match what you are arguing and the evidence you are using?*
- *Have you acknowledged opposing claims (counterclaims) and have reasons to refute them?*

Arguing is a civil method of communication used to convince the opposing side to at least listen to sound reasoning and perhaps agree on a few points.

Reading Recommendations

<i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Gr 6
<i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton	Gr 7
<i>The Eye of Minds</i> by James Dashner	Gr 8

*January: MA ELA State Standards

- RL.7.1. Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text..
- RL.7.2. Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- W.7.1a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claim(s), and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of January as well.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

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