

Units	Essential Questions	Goals	Assessments
The American Dream	1. How do writers use the strategies of definition to define a concept? 2. What is “the American Dream?” 3. What is synthesis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand and define complex concepts such as the American Dream • To identify and synthesize a variety of perspectives • To analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of arguments • To analyze representative texts from the American experience 	On demand Definition Essay Synthesis Essay ACT Benchmark ACT Reading
The Power of Persuasion	1. How can artistic expression advance social commentary? 2. How are the components of rhetoric applied to the creation and delivery of persuasive speeches?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To interpret a text in consideration of its context • To analyze an argument • To create and present a dramatic scene about a societal issue • To define and apply the appeals and devices of rhetoric • To analyze, write, and present a persuasive speech • To examine and apply syntactic structures in the written and spoken word 	On demand ACT Benchmark ACT Reading Creating and performing a dramatic scene Writing a persuasive speech
The American Forums: The Marketplace of Ideas	1. How do news outlets impact public opinion or public perception? 2. How does a writer use tone to advance an opinion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To analyze and create editorial and opinion pieces • To identify and analyze fallacious reasoning in a text • To analyze how writers use logic, evidence, and rhetoric to advance opinions • To define and apply the appeals and devices of rhetoric 	On demand ACT Benchmark ACT Reading Op-Ed News Project Satirical Piece of Writing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To analyze and apply satirical techniques • To examine and apply syntactic structures in the written and spoken word 	
The Pursuit of Happiness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to pursue happiness? 2. How can a writer use/manipulate genre conventions for effect? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To compose a personal essay that employs stylistic techniques • To analyze and evaluate the structural and stylistic features of texts • To use a variety of genres to express a coherent theme 	<p>On demand ACT Benchmark ACT Reading Personal Essay Multi-Genre Research Project</p>
An American Journey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do cultural movements such as the Harlem Renaissance reflect and create people's attitudes and beliefs? 2. How is one writer's work both a natural product of and a departure from the ideas of a specific literary movement in American literature? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore the concept of "journey" • To analyze a writer's complex writing and stylistic choices • To research and synthesize information about a literary era • To create a multimedia presentation 	<p>On demand ACT Benchmark ACT Reading Presentation of a literary movement Analytical Essay</p>