



Name: _____

FOUNDATIONS

“Life on earth is a whole, yet it expresses itself in unique time-bound bodies, microscopic or visible, plant or animal, extinct or living. So there can be no one place to be. There can be no one way to be, no one way to practice, no one way to learn, no one way to love, no one way to grow or to heal, no one way to live, no one way to feel, no one thing to know or be known. The particulars count.” ~Jon Kabat-Zinn

When we think about the word *foundation*, it could have several meanings: the physical foundation of a building, an organization that supports a cause, a set of learned beliefs or ethics that forms the core of a person, etc. **Essentially, the word means “a solid ground on which to build” nearly anything you can imagine.**

We are built on the details of our lives--where we come from, who our family is, what food we eat, where we go to school, who our friends are, our successes, our tragedies, our passions, our freckles, everything. Some of our foundation is built with things that we can control; some of the things that make us who we are far from it. Everything has its role in making us who we are. It’s a fitting theme for the beginning of a school year.

Our mission this year is to support one another in this endeavor, to courageously lay our personal foundations and choose, brick by brick, who we are and who we want to become.

During this class, you will be given tools to identify and celebrate the different aspects of your life that make you so specifically and genuinely you will write poems, narratives, and lists. You will create maps, artwork, and something absolutely delicious.

Guiding Questions:

- What effects do culture and cultural heritage have on personal identity?
- What other factors influence the formation of personal identity? (e.g. geographical location, primary language, socioeconomic status, choices, etc.)
- What happens when your personal culture clashes with another (even a dominant) culture?

What You Will Learn:

- You will learn to think deeply about your own personal identity.
- You will learn to communicate your thoughts well and listen with thoughtful respect.

- You will learn to compose several genres of writing.
 - You will learn how to deeply interact with a variety of texts, including novels, articles, poetry, etc.
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What You Will Do:

Project Work:

1. Complete a multi-genre, interactive project exploring the foundations of your identity.
2. Hone your time management skills to move through project elements when needed.

Classwork:

1. Develop effective independent reading strategies.
2. Contribute to and participate in lessons by taking and organizing notes, completing and submitting all assignments on time, and offering questions and suggestions.
3. How to participate well in and prepared for class discussions and seminars.
4. Complete self-assessments with honest reflections about your areas of strength as well as opportunities for growth.
5. Conference with your teacher multiple times throughout the cycle to discuss progress and feedback.
6. Build a firm foundation in the English language through the study of Latin roots as well as grammar and writing strategies.

Homework:

1. Complete assigned daily reading.
2. Complete assigned written assignments.
3. Assemble your Foundation project components.
4. Prepare to share one or more of the components of your project.
5. Contact your teacher with questions, comments, or concerns.