



Name: _____

GROWTH

"Stay afraid, but do it anyway. What's important is the action. You don't have to wait to be confident. Just do it and eventually the confidence will follow." - Carrie Fisher

When we think about the word *growth*, most people first picture a plant reaching for the sunlight: the word implies a living thing reaching for whatever nurtures it, strengthens it, and allows it to flourish. Nothing grows in a vacuum; **growth requires positive, fruitful interaction with forces outside of oneself in order to create healthy, clear change.**

Every day that we are alive, we have the choice either to grow or to remain as we are. Growth can be a joyful finding of ourselves. Or it can require risk, discomfort, or even fear when we choose to grow from a difficult situation. We direct our own growth every day, mostly through our choices and our responses to the world around us. It's a fitting theme for the second half of a school year.

Some of us have succeeded in our goals so far this year and feel the warmth and comfort of that success. Others have struggled to grow and feel frustrated or sad. Most of us fall somewhere in between these extremes.

During this quarter, we will confront some big, hard questions and choose our responses to them. How will you grow from the success you experienced the first semester? How will you grow from the struggles? How will you reach for what nurtures you and strengthen your minds? How will you grow in your identity this quarter?

Guiding Questions:

- Which injustices touch your life and the lives of those you love?
- How does your reaction to injustice develop who you are?
- What happens when you listen to another's experience with injustice, especially when it is an experience you do not understand or know firsthand?

What You Will Learn:

- You will learn to think deeply about your community.
- You will learn to consider many perspectives on the same topic.
- 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 Justice Project
2. Complete several assigned essays and all the connected preparatory work

Classwork:

1. Write several in-class essays with increasingly less preparation.
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. Participate in and prepare 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 about your writing
6. Continue to 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 Justice Project components
4. Prepare to present your project
5. Contact your teacher with questions, comments, or concerns.