THE PEN SYMPOSIUM:
VOICES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

“LET US REMEMBER: ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.”

—MALALA YOUSAFZAI

2016-2017
A symposium is a conference, or meeting to discuss a particular subject.

It is also a collection of essays or papers on a particular subject by a number of contributors.
WHAT IS THE PEN SYMPOSIUM?

- The Pen Symposium is an annual conference at which every SCHS student enrolled in AP English Language and Composition has the opportunity to showcase and share the research and writing they have produced throughout the school year.

- A coming-of-age opportunity and rite of passage for the Junior AP/On-level kids.

- The conference also seeks to understand and potentially improve one aspect of the student experience at SCHS.

- This year’s Pen Symposium topic is “The Pen: Voices of Restorative Justice” and it will be held on Tuesday April 25, 2017 in the Performing Arts Center from 6-9pm. Attendance is Mandatory for ALL AP students, and Portfolio presentation is mandatory for ALL English III students-attendance is optional/by teacher recommendation.
THE HISTORY

- The Symposium was created by Ms. Gibson at the end 2014-2015, and was first implemented in 2016.
- It began as an answer to all of the negative school culture being perpetuated about SCHS in our district, and by many students who are not Bulldogs and do not see how amazing our students are.
- The Symposium is also a service learning project, that can be done in conjunction with any curriculum. It happens to be based on a fairly new type of school discipline: Restorative Discipline.
- Ms. Gibson saw it as a way to invite students into what is normally an “admin-teacher only” discussion on how students are disciplined and how we are perceived based on student behavior, which is closely tied to student achievement.
- In a nutshell, the SCHS symposium focuses on restorative discipline- which in turn helps keep more kids in classrooms, which then builds student morale, overall campus climate, and ultimately student achievement and growth; not by coercion, but by sheer willingness to maintain a balanced and positive school culture.
- “I care about your grades and your rank, but I am even more invested in the kind of person you become.”—Ms. Gibson
WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

According to The Centre for Justice and Reconciliation, “Restorative justice views crime as more than breaking the law – it also causes harm to people, relationships, and the community. So a just response must address those harms as well as the wrongdoing. If the parties are willing, the best way to do this is to help them meet to discuss those harms and how to about bring resolution. Other approaches are available if they are unable or unwilling to meet. Sometimes those meetings lead to transformational changes in their lives.”

Last Year’s Symposium answered the following question: Could Restorative Justice improve the student experience here at Summer Creek High School? How? Why?

THIS YEAR....
THE BIG QUESTION

Who are the most powerful voices of restorative justice? How can we learn from them, and add our own voices to the conversation in meaningful ways?
POSSIBLE VOICES

- You may be wondering what and/or who I mean by “Voices.”

- Well, a “Voice” can be anyone/anything that speaks to a particular social issue, that can teach a moral or ethical lesson, and from which we can learn something about our own human experience in a meaningful way.

- Some examples: Malala Yousafzai, Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., David Foster Wallace, Frederick Douglass, Henrietta Lacks, Atul Gawande, Colin Kaepernick, Malcolm London…??

- Some outside of the box examples: Yoda, Harambe, Donald Trump…etc. 😊

- Ultimately, the “Voice” you choose should represent who you are, speak to you personally, and represent something moral or ethical that you stand for in your own life. By the end of the symposium, it will represent what you hope to bring to the world, as a human being, and more immediately, what you hope to bring to SCHS, as a student. So, choose wisely!
WHAT ARE THE TASKS?

- The student will complete six major tasks in order to attempt to answer the big question. Each task is explained in detail in the guideline packet.
## AP DUE DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symposium Component</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Symposium Proposal</td>
<td>October 28, 2016 @9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis Paper</td>
<td>November 11, 2016 @9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis Research Paper</td>
<td>March 2, 2017 @9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Argument Paper</td>
<td>March 31, 2017 @9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>“TED Talk”</td>
<td>April 8, 2017 @9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation Night</td>
<td>April 25, 2017 @9pm</td>
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# English III Due Dates

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<tr>
<td>American “Voices” Prezi</td>
<td>March 2, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persuasive OR Expository Paper</td>
<td>March 31, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorized Slam Poem</td>
<td>April 8, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Mic Night</td>
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GUIDELINE PACKETS

- The Symposium project is designed to take the entire school year to accomplish. It will include multiple steps and processes designed to help each student accomplish the tasks by the specified due dates. Students must keep track of their guideline packets and calendars, because we refer to them often.
Eight students will present their “TED” style talks or “Slam Poems” on the main stage, while the rest of the students will present their work in “Breakout” Socratic Seminar Sessions. The eight on stage will be the only ones judged, and the only ones eligible for leading the initiative. Other breakout participants and main stage runner-ups are eligible to become initiative committee members.

Each main stage presentation will take approximately 3-5 minutes, while each break out will run for 20-30 minutes. The breakouts will take place in the PAC, Carbon flex Areas, Copper Flex and LGI, and The Library. Each Flex Area will house specific breakout topics such as:

Social Justice, Political Ethics, Peaceful protest, Gender identity and equality, education and school culture, food ethics, popular culture, community service and public relationships, healthcare and bio-ethics, human development, and theology.
SYMPOSIUM NIGHT

- At each breakout, the students will discuss their year’s work in a Socratic seminar.

- During the main stage presentations, each student will give their speech, making a claim and proposal for how they intend to improve RJ at SCHS, and the judges will score their speeches based on the 9 TED TALK criteria.

- The two highest scoring students will receive a prize and be named the Symposium Leaders: Last years prizes were HP Chromebooks donated to the our class through Donorschoose.org, and went to Aiyana Bean and Jasmine Reed. They used their Chromebooks to plan a proposal that was given to Mr. Correa, and SCHS is now implementing a student led RJ program here at SCHS equipped with teacher and administrative facilitation.

- They are also allowed to keep the Chromebooks to help them prepare for college once they are seniors and the initiative is being implemented. Students are not allowed to take the Chromebooks off campus until they graduate.

- What will be this year’s prizes?? We’ll soon find out….
SOS: SOCIAL OUTREACH SOCIETY

- SOS stands for Social Outreach Society.
- Social Outreach Society is a student led organization, that partners with Mr. Correa and the SCHS staff, to help implement restorative discipline practices on campus.
- If you’d like to join, the next meeting will be held on **October 5, 2016** from 4-5pm in the gold LGI. Consider joining, you will get lots of help with your symposium project!!
- Symposium winners will get to take on the leadership of SOS!
- Someone from SOS leadership is here to speak to you!!
- Attend the next **three** meetings and receive a **5-star FINAL exam card**- trust me, you want one!!! When you earn **five** stars, you receive a bonus on your final exam grade!!!
ATTIRE AND PRESENTATIONS

- All breakout students will be dressed in business to business-casual attire. They will carry their work in a presentation book. Each student will only present once.

- The 6 main stage participants have the option to dress in the same style as their favorite TED talk speaker/Spoken word, which can range from Formal to Casual. Some will present a formal speech, some will present a spoken word, or another style of speech. Others will have visual aids.