

## Act I CLEW Paragraph CP English 12

Our writing prompt at the end of the unit is below.

From its conception, critics and admirers have been describing Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton: An American Musical* as revolutionary. While its setting makes this description an irresistible play on words, does the claim stand up to scrutiny? Does *Hamilton* challenge the status quo or does it reinforce traditional ideas?

After we finish listening to Act II, I will ask you to take on one of the topics below.

The portrayal of America's birth and its founding fathers (history)

The portrayal of women and men and their roles/expectations (gender)

The portrayal of race and slavery (race)

The portrayal of immigrants and America as an immigrant nation (immigrants)

The portrayal of war and its outcomes (war)

To complete this writing assignment, you will write about how the songs and production portray these topics. Do they reinforce our traditional ideas about the topic? Or do they challenge us to see something new or different? Don't worry: we will talk about traditional and new ideas related to these topics before you write this final paper! For today's assignment, new v. traditional won't matter!

For today's 10 points, I would like you to choose one of these topics and write a CLEW paragraph about how one song from Act I of *Hamilton* connects to that topic. Post this paragraph to our class's Yammer page. In the post, include the following.

\_\_\_\_\_ The title of the song you are discussing (1 point)

\_\_\_\_\_ CLAIM: The idea about the topic (women, war, immigrants, etc.) that comes through in the song (3 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ EVIDENCE: References to lines from the song that support/create this idea (3 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ WARRANT: A clear explanation for how this song conveys this idea (3 points)

I have posted a PDF of the lyrics of all the songs from Act I, but you can search online for lyrics to just the song you have chosen to work with. Please note: the PDF is not edited to remove profanities. Most lyrics sites won't edit the lyrics either.

I suggest drafting your paragraph in a Word doc first. Once you are done writing and editing, copy and paste the paragraph into a Yammer post. This strategy helps to avoid posting when you don't intend to, which has happened to all of us! It's fair to ask a sibling, parent, or friend to read through your response as a peer editor before you share your work.

Once you post your paragraph, read through your classmates' insights. We are posting them in place of class discussion to share our ideas about the topics and the songs.

I will make an example and post it to Yammer so you can see what the final product should look like. The downside to an example is that the topic-song combination I write about will then be off the table for you.

Finishing this assignment gets you to spring break! Use that as your motivation . . . Let's GO!