

**Ewing High School
English Department
Proficiency Statements
African American Experience through Literature**

The African American Experience through Literature class invites students to broaden their cultural, historical, and intellectual horizons. Chronologically tracing the arrival of Africans in America, the course encompasses roughly four hundred years of the African American experience. Through the exploration of literature, debate, listening to music and narratives, research, oral presentations, and writing, students explore a variety of topics including the rise of the black middle and upper classes, folk tales, social organizations that have fueled the growth of those groups, legal rulings (i.e. Plessy v. Ferguson) and their impact on social behaviors (i.e. people's decision to "pass"), the Harlem Renaissance, and the formation of certain cultural celebrations including Kwanzaa and Juneteenth. The study of African American Experience through Literature also coordinates well with the study of American History, African American History, Music, and Culinary Arts.

To be proficient a student must satisfactorily complete the following:

Assessment:

1. Participate in large group discussions
2. Deliver oral presentations
3. Respond to objective test items
4. Complete various forms of writing assignments
5. Complete projects as assigned by the teacher
6. Maintain an organized notebook
7. Research various topics

Literature

1. Read, analyze, and complete assignments for units on novels, articles, and memoirs
2. Recognize and analyze various literary patterns as they are presented in books, specifically the slave narratives
3. Respond to open-ended questions about various works of literature

Writing:

1. Create formal pieces of writing which appropriately analyze and reflect upon literature
2. Write folk tales that explain the origin of natural occurrences
3. Complete between 2 and 4 essays based on literature and song lyrics
4. Research and write a formal paper on a variety of topics including the Underground Railroad, abolitionists, and the evolution of African American music
5. Use appropriate conventions of mechanics and usage

Speaking:

1. Participate in group oral presentations
2. State and support opinions during class discussions
3. Demonstrate one or more of the various purposes of speaking (to inform, persuade, entertain and/or inspire) when addressing a classroom audience
4. Use visual aids and appropriate nonverbal expression to reinforce meaning during a group or individual presentation

Listening:

1. Locate and analyze information from videos, music, or other electronic media
2. Take concise notes from class lectures or media presentations
3. Listen selectively, critically, attentively, and courteously to a variety of speakers

Viewing:

1. Use a variety of technological and information resources (i.e. databases, computer networks, videos) to gather, synthesize, create and communicate information
2. Recognize and understand that visual creations can operate on several levels simultaneously (i.e. literal, allegorical, and symbolic)