**Assignment Overview:**

This summer, like last summer, you will be required to read a novel. This summer, 11th graders will be required to read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This novel will lay the foundation for the essential questions that will drive our work together for the next school year: How has the concept of the American Dream shaped the American identity? Is the concept of the American Dream still applicable today? Is the American Dream attainable or is it just mythology?

For background information on Fitzgerald, click [here](http://www.biography.com/people/f-scott-fitzgerald-9296261#awesm=~oDoUDxuaqstr72).

For an overview of the novel, click [here](http://www.shmoop.com/great-gatsby/).

For an online version of the novel, click [here](http://www.publicbookshelf.com/fiction/great-gatsby/).

For a trailer on the movie, click [here](http://thegreatgatsby.warnerbros.com/).

**You must read the novel by the end of the first week of the 2014-2015 school year.**

**Requirements:**

1. You are required to read the entire novel by the **end of the first week of school.**
2. You must bring **notes with you by the day of the first Socratic seminar.**
3. Your notes *must* include the following: questions that you have while reading, significant quotes and explanations, opinions/reactions to the reading, and connections to self or other texts.

**Example questions:**

**poor discussion question:** Where does the story take place?

**good discussion question:** Why do you think Fitzgerald chose to set the novel in Long Island and not in the Midwest?

**better discussion question:** On page11 Fitzgerald writes, “Oh, I’ll stay in the East, don’t you worry,” he said, glancing at Daisy and then back at me, as if he were alert for something more. “I’d be a God damned fool to live anywhere else.” What does Tom mean by this? What does the East represent to him and how is that a relevant argument for today?

1. You must have some responses for each chapter in the novel. You do not have to include all the components for each chapter, but it **must include at least two for each chapter.**

**Chapter 1 sample responses:** (NOTE: cannot be used in your notes)

**Question**: Why would Fitzgerald choose to dress Jordan and Daisy in white? What is it representative of? How does it impact you?

**Reaction/opinion:** Why is bootlegging such a shocking “profession”? I don’t understand why the fact that Jay (James) made his money in that way influenced the way others saw him. Isn’t money valued the same no matter how you made it?

**Grading:**

**1. Test**

After you have read the *The Great Gatsby*, you will have to complete an online quiz on Schoology. **The quiz will be multiple choice, worth 50 points**, and will be one of the first grades of the first marking period. The quiz will cover the basic plot points and major themes of the novel. The Schoology *The Great Gatsby* quiz must be completed by the second week of school. You will have 1 opportunity to take the quiz in class on day 4 of the school year.  **There are no exceptions.**

**2. Notes**

You will be turning in your notes on the *The Great Gatsby* on the day of the first class discussion (Socratic Seminar). **These notes will be worth 25 points**.

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| **Grading Criteria for Discussion Notes** | **15** | **20** | **25** |
|  | **Contains little variety of responses in the form of questions, quotes and opinions and come from a few chapters in the novel.**  **Responses that lack thoughtfulness or are plagiarized from the Internet.**  **Grammar, spelling, and mechanics interfere with understanding.** | **Contains some variety of responses in the form of questions, quotes and opinions and come from the most chapters in the novel.** | **Ample responses that include a variety of questions, quotes and opinions that are significant, thoughtful and come from all 9 chapters in the novel.** |