



## English 4

Mr. Doherty

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### Unit 1: The Past

This unit explores the theme of the past by asking, “How are people affected by history and their surroundings?” Students read poetry, literary nonfiction, and novel excerpts. Students use literary nonfiction texts as models to begin drafting their college essays and apply their understanding of poetic elements to craft poems.

### Unit 2: Inspiration

This unit explores the concept of inspiration and poses the question, “How does my environment foster my creativity?” Through the reading of a variety of classic and contemporary short stories, students will consider how inspiration is fostered. Students will create their own version of a short story and turn this into a multimedia presentation.

### Unit 3: Criticism

In this unit, students consider the value of critique as they ask themselves, “Why is it important to critically analyze the information I receive?” Students read novels in book clubs and utilize discourse as they focus on characterization, figurative language, literary devices, tone, and theme. Students craft analytical research essays based on one method of literary criticism.

### Unit 4: Discernment

In this unit, students consider the idea of discernment as they ask themselves, “How do my experiences shape my judgment?” Students engage with drama and interpret how the literary and dramatic devices used by the author contribute to theme. Referencing the

techniques in their reading, students create a script. After reading informational texts regarding the construction of drama, students create an interpretative essay, focusing on developing ideas and utilizing appropriate organization and conventions of punctuation.

#### Unit 5: Foresight

In this unit, students reflect on the concept of foresight as they ask themselves, “How can I consider what has happened and what is happening around me to understand what is coming?” Through the process of inquiry, students explore current issues through the reading of informational and argumentative texts.

#### Unit 6: The Future

In this unit, students consider the question “How has the information I’ve received prepared me for the future?” Students read persuasive speeches and debates and examine the rhetorical strategies and devices used by writers and public speakers. Students use these texts as examples of argumentation and persuasion as they engage in debates and write cover letters and resumes.

Students give formal presentations to showcase their knowledge of the elements of public speaking.

#### Online Resources:

HUB – [houstonisd.org/hub](http://houstonisd.org/hub)

NoRedInk.com

Vocabulary.com

Microsoft Teams