OVERVIEW OF UNIT:

In the 10th grade English/Language Arts program, students examine literary texts in a variety of forms, including short stories, novels, plays, and non-fiction, and in the process develop their skills of analytical and argumentative expression. Throughout the year, the 10th grade program addresses the essential question: “How does literature express and explore what it means to be part of a community?”

Unit 1 focuses on the craft of writing to convey information and addresses the essential question “How do authors decide what information to include in their text?” Throughout this unit, students examine informational as well as literary texts to better understand how a text’s meaning and effect on the reader are shaped through the author’s selection and arrangement of information, including details of character and setting.

Students demonstrate their understanding of the craft of writing to convey information by constructively engaging in whole-class discussion and small-group activities about focus texts, and by composing at least two essays that focus on the use of information to express and support ideas. One of these essays is an analysis of an author’s use of information to communicate ideas, and the other is an informational essay (delivered as a speech) in which the student uses information to support an idea.

Thematically, the Literature of the Modern World course is structured in units focused on key issues and conflicts facing the modern world. The thematic focus of Unit 2 is the conflict between nature and civilization.

The Classics of American Literature course is structured in units that examine the historical development of American cultural identity as expressed through our nation’s literature from the pre-Colonial era up to the present, focusing on recurrent themes defined by essential conflicts that have characterized American history. Unit 2 of this course examines the early Federal and American Renaissance eras (c. 1800–c. 1855), focusing particularly on the conflict between individuality and responsibility.

STANDARDS: Common Core ELA Standards

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FOCUS ELA STANDARDS: see curriculum

Reading Literary Text
+ Analyze text’s structure RL–9.10.5

Reading Informational Text
+ Cite textual evidence and make inferences to support analysis RI–9.10.3
+ Find theme/central idea and analyze its development; objective summary RI–9.10.2
+ Analyze author’s development (content) of ideas or events and their connections RI–9.10.3
+ Analyze development (structure) of ideas or claims through sentences, paragraphs, or sections RI–9.10.5
+ Analyze accounts of a subject told in different mediums RI–9.10.7

Writing
+ Informative writing W–9.10.2
+ Use technology to produce and publish writing W–9.10.6
+ Conduct short and extended research projects W–9.10.7
+ Gather information; assess and cite sources W–9.10.8

Speaking and Listening
+ Integrate multiple sources of information in diverse media SL–9.10.2
+ Present information, findings, and supporting evidence SL–9.10.4
+ Adapt speech to a variety of contexts; show command of formal English SL–9.10.6

Language

*Referenced templates from Common Core Curriculum Maps, English Language Arts and The Understanding By Design Guide to Creating High Quality Units.