Initial Research—*Raisin in the Sun*
50 points formative (30 points content, 20 points presentation)

Objective: 10.3.2, 10.3.3  Student will be able to research and write a short essay on an issue related to the play. Student will be able to present a persuasive speech to the class explaining the significance of the person/event/term researched to the nation’s history and culture

**Assignment:**

Each of the topics below is ALLUDED to (mentioned or discussed) in the play, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Your job is to:

a) Answer the questions related to your selected topic  
b) Type out your answers in a well-written essay  
c) Document your sources within the essay AND in a works cited using proper MLA format (this is an important skill for those of you planning to continue your education!)

- Your presentation should include the information you found in your research and an explanation as to the significance of your topic to American history.  
- You should use symbols or graphics/pictures to help explain your assigned topic

**We will be in the media center to do research on January 31, February 1 and 2**

You will pick one of the following topics to research and present:

1. Black Power Movement  
2. Chicago’s Southside  
3. Woodlawn, Chicago 1940-1955  
4. Hereros of Southwest Africa  
5. Home Owners Loan Corporation (1930-1955)  
6. White Flight  
7. Blockbusting  
8. Assimilation  
9. Liberia  
10. Jim Crow laws  
11. NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)  
12. Booker T. Washington  
13. Women’s Movement (1940-1955)  
14. Yoruba People/Nigeria  
15. Marcus Garvey  
16. *Brown vs. Board of Education*  
17. Rosa Parks  
18. Chicago’s Black Belt  
19. Restrictive Covenants  
20. Redlining  
21. Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya)  
22. W.E.B. DuBois  
23. Plessy vs. Ferguson
Now that you have your topic, here’s the information you MUST include in your essay:

**Topic Research Questions For Raisin in the Sun**

1. **Black Power Movement:**
   - Where did the term Black Power come from?
   - What was the Black Power Movement’s **stance** (beliefs) on **assimilation** and **integration** (=fitting in and associating with the dominant (white) American society)?
   - During what decades in American history was the Black Power Movement most popular?
   - What was different between the ideas/goals of the Black Power Movement and the Civil Rights Movement?
   - Get a picture of the **symbol** of the BLACK POWER MOVEMENT (or you can share a video clip)

2. **Chicago's South Side:**
   - State the **reputation** that this section of Chicago had in the 1950s as well as in 2012.
   - State the industries that brought a big wave of immigration to this section of Chicago.
   - Briefly state what happened during the Race Riots on the South Side (1919)
   - Find a map of Chicago and label the South Side.

3. **Woodlawn (substitute for Clybourne Park/Lincoln Park):**
   - Until the 1950s, which race dominated in this section of Chicago?
   - Explain how this section of Chicago relates to Lorraine Hansberry’s own life.
   - What famous university is located in this section of Chicago?
   - Find a map of Chicago and label the Woodlawn area.

4. **Hereros of Southwest Africa**
   - The Herero people lived in the part of Africa now known as ________________
   - What European people were successful in getting rid of the Herero people? And WHY?
   - State the term for getting rid of an entire population of people/race/ethnicity:
   - Explain the cultural background and the lifestyle of the different Herero groups (i.e. clothing, food, customs, education).

5. **Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC)**
   - What president established this group and what was the purpose behind it?
   - Explain the maps the HOLC created. What were these maps trying to do?
   - How did the HOLC influence mortgage lending practices in the 1940’s and 1950’s?

6. **White Flight:**
   - What does this term mean?
   - After what period in American history did ‘white flight’ seem to occur more? WHY?
   - Name at least 5 American cities that were affected by white flight.
   - What factors drove people to the suburbs (list at least 3)?
   - What made moving to the suburbs attractive for some people?

7. **Blockbusting:**
   - Define the term blockbusting- in words THE CLASS will understand.
   - Who “wins” in a blockbusting situation? Who “loses”?
   - Explain when and why it was used in Chicago?
8. **Assimilation**
- Give the definition of CULTURAL assimilation.
- State at least 3 issues or problems that can happen when a person assimilates into the majority culture:
- Describe your own experience with assimilation for when you first came to the U.S.

9. **Liberia**
- On what continent is Liberia located? What is the capital of Liberia? What countries surround Liberia?
- What does the name Liberia mean?
- Who colonized Liberia in 1822 and what was Liberia designed to be?
- Copy a map of Africa and LABEL Liberia.

10. **Jim Crow laws**
- Where did this term come from? Why were these laws created?
- What areas or regions of the United States were most affected by Jim Crow laws?
- What were some of the Jim Crow laws? Give three examples.
- What sort of public services were separated for black Americans?
- When were Jim Crow laws deemed unconstitutional? And, what famous case helped to abolish Jim Crow laws?

11. **NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)**
- What was the original name of the group that met in 1905 and who was the head of it?
- When did they come up with the name NAACP?
- What was the main focus of the group in the beginning?
- How did the NAACP affect desegregation in the 1950’s?

12. **Booker T. Washington**
- What disagreements did Washington have with W.E.B. DuBois?
- State Booker T. Washington’s views on race relations?
- What college was he chosen to lead? What was the focus or purpose of the college and what type of people went there?
- Find and share a CLIP of Booker T. Washington or find and share a PICTURE of Booker T. Washington.

13. **Women’s Movement (1940-1955)**
- What traditionally were women’s roles in society in this time period?
- What function did women serve during World War II? What happened to these women after the war was over?
- How were women portrayed on television in the 1950’s? List 3 television shows and describe the role of the leading woman character on each.

14. **The Yoruba People**
- In what region of Africa can these people be found?
- Name at least seven (7) other countries where the Yoruba people have settled.
- Explain the significance and meaning of the naming custom in the Yoruban culture.
- How is their political system set up?
15. **Marcus Garvey**
- State Marcus Garvey’s homeland.
- What group was he the founder of?
- Find a PICTURE of Marcus GARVEY (or a YouTube clip of Garvey)
- Why was Garvey sent to prison and then deported to Jamaica?
- What did he encourage African-Americans to do with regard to Africa?

16. **Brown vs. Board of Education**
- What did this landmark decision state in its ruling?
- How and why did this lawsuit originate? What was this case about?
- How quickly did integration come about in the US after this decision?

17. **Rosa Parks**
- What is Rosa Parks most famous for? WHEN, WHERE and WHY did she commit this famous act?
- Give details about the event in Montgomery, Alabama that was the result of her actions.
- How long was the bus boycott and what was the legal result of the boycott?
- Find a picture of Rosa Parks or get a video (youtube) that talks about Rosa Parks.

18. **Chicago’s Black Belt**
- What was the black belt?
- What exact area in Chicago did it cover?
- Get a map that shows the location of the Black Belt in Chicago.
- What was the area like with regard to housing, education, etc.?

19. **Restrictive Covenants**
- These covenants were present, especially in the early part of the 20th century—what do these covenants RESTRICT?
- HOW did these racial restrictions originate?
- What did the Fair Housing Act of 1968 do to help end restrictive covenants?
- What additions/modifications were made in 1988 to the Fair Housing Act of 1968?

20. **Redlining**
- Define REDLINING and explain why it started.
- What happens to a district that is redlined?
- How and why was the term “redlining” coined?
- How did the federal government contribute to the early problems of inner city Neighborhoods during the 1930’s?

21. **Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya)**
- What is Kenyatta known for (his main accomplishment)?
- How did he begin his career in politics?
- Explain how Kenyatta wound up in jail in the 1950’s.
- What positive developments (political, economic, educational, etc.) did he implement in Kenya?
22. **W. E. B. Du Bois**
   - How was Du Bois involved in the Niagara Movement and the NAACP?
   - What kind of relationship did Du Bois have with Booker T. Washington—did he agree or disagree with Washington's policies?
   - What were Du Bois's ideas with regard to the African-American people in the United States?

23. **Plessy vs. Ferguson**
   - What did this court case decide and when was it?
   - What was the background behind the case—why did this case come about?
   - How did this affect day-to-day living for African-Americans?