

October 25th, 2017

Dear English 4 Parents and Guardians,

Your students have just wrapped up their “This I Believe” essays, and they are powerful snapshots of who they are and what they believe in. We have shared them, and are now excited and ready to jump into the next writing adventure: argument!

Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring the question of whether or not Tupac is actually dead: was he really murdered the night of September 7, 1996, or has he just been hanging out somewhere with Elvis all these years? In order to gain solid background knowledge of Tupac and insight into both sides of this controversial topic, we will be watching several films, and ultimately will move into the research aspect of this unit where students will navigate databases to find credible sources that support their position. We will ultimately end in an epic debate, and will do a short argumentative writing piece as well.

Next week, I will be showing “*Straight Outta Compton*” and excerpts from “*All Eyez On Me*,” both of which depict Tupac’s life, and the larger issues surrounding his status as a rapper, an icon, and as the victim of one of the most notorious murder mysteries of all time. While valuable works, these do contain explicit language, mention of drug use/abuse, and gang/gun violence. However, I am certain that the educational and artistic value are not outweighed by these aspects, and serve to comment on important issues still present in our society.

If you are uncomfortable with your student viewing these films, please indicate so below, and I will be sure to provide an alternative assignment which will be completed in the library at the time that the other students are viewing the film. There will no penalty whatsoever towards the grade. If you are okay with your student viewing these films, please be sure to also indicate so below.

Thank you for your support and cooperation, and I look forward to another meaningful unit with your students!

I grant permission for my student to view “*Straight Outta Compton*” & “*All Eyez on Me*”.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

I DO NOT grant permission for my student to view “*Straight Outta Compton*” & “*All Eyez on Me*”.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____