

# The Credo Paper

## Guidelines

This personal writing piece is entitled the **Credo Paper**. The word “credo” comes from Latin and means “I Believe.”

IN OUR ENGLISH CLASS THIS SEMESTER YOU HAVE FREQUENTLY READ ABOUT INDIVIDUALS, IN A VARIETY OF SOCIAL, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS WHO HAVE SEARCHED FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION “WHO AM I?”

In this paper, you will discuss, in **personal narrative form**, your beliefs and principles, the values you have learned and intend to follow throughout your life.

Please follow the directions on this sheet to complete your **Credo Paper**.

## Extras

Give your Credo Paper a personally meaningful title. Each Credo paper must, as well, have an aesthetically pleasing creative/artistic title/cover page with your name, a picture of yourself, some sort of collage (etc.) that showcases your personality.

### THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING MAJOR FACETS OF YOUR LIFE:

- I. **Where you come from:** think about your hometown, your family, your childhood, and all of the other parts of your life that have made you who you are. How have these things shaped who you are today? Who is your most important influence?
- II. **Where you are:** think about who you are today, as a 16 or 17 year old boy or girl. What activities do you enjoy? What have you accomplished up to this point in your life? How do your actions, affiliations, and connections to others influence the way you live your life?
- III. **Where you're going:** No matter who we are, or where we come from, we all leave a mark on those around us. What lasting mark do you want to leave on the world? Where do you see yourself as an adult? What are your goals and dreams, and how will you accomplish your plan? What occupation or activities will you participate in in order to become the person you want to be? **How do you want to be remembered?**

### OVERARCHING QUESTIONS

Why do some people conform to social expectations while others rebel?

What can we learn from different generations?

How are people transformed through their relationships with others?

How does one's perspective shape or alter truth?

What can you learn about yourself through studying the lives of others?

How do we define who we are?

### IV. WHAT IS IDENTITY?

The fourth, and last, section of your **Credo Paper** will be dedicated to a discussion answering this question. How have the themes and movements, and the literature that you have studied this year, changed or influenced the way that you define “Identity”? What, exactly, is “truth,” in your opinion? How has this definition changed over time-- both for you, and for those who have come before you? How do the characters in our literature explore this question?

### GRADING FOR THIS PROJECT

Your Credo Paper will be evaluated based on how thoroughly you consider the ways that your past life experiences, as well as the themes and overarching questions of our English 11 curriculum, have contributed to the person that you are and that you will become.

### REQUIREMENTS

1. Your paper must be 3-4 pages in length
2. Informal language may be used, but you must still adhere to basic conventions.
3. Write about these ideas in a thoughtful, organized manner so that your ideas **FLOW SMOOTHLY** in an **intelligent, conversational** way.
4. Credo paper must be typed, using MLA format.

### ENGLISH 11

SPRING 2011  
MS. SABATINO

The final due date for this project is:

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15**

Individual presentations will begin following the due date for the assignment.