Welcome to the Academies! One of the biggest goals of your English II class is to develop and polish your critical reading and thinking skills. It is imperative that you develop into a strong, polished writer in order to convey your thoughts as well as advocate for yourself and your community. To that end, these texts have been selected because they preview and explore complex themes and topics that you will continue to examine throughout the year, and the activities are designed to help you practice those critical thinking and polished writing skills.

**Texts to Read:**

   a. **Themes:** Suffering, Morality & Ethics, The Supernatural, Science, Immortality, Race, Family, Poverty, Language & Communication
   b. **Key Understanding:** Skloot explores the ethical tensions that arise when medical professionals use patient DNA for researching and developing life-saving medicine.

2. *Fast Food Nation.* Eric Schlosser (1240L):
   a. **Themes:** Diet/Nutrition, Food Safety, Corporate Greed
   b. **Key Understanding:** Explores Americans' attitudes toward fast food and the impact of fast food on Americans' eating.

AND

   a. **Key Understanding:** These chapters will help students analyze how authors use disease and the health and well-being of a character, to symbolize much more on a universal scale.

   **NOTE:** The companion texts chosen feature these characteristics at a sophisticated level, therefore these chapters have been provided as a scaffold for students.
Tasks to Complete:

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Identify three circumstances in the text with which you can connect and explain the connection in no less than one well-crafted paragraph. These connections can range from loss, sadness, fear, gender identity, hope, etc. Choose one, on which to create a creative outlet to express your connection to the situation. Some ideas include, but are not limited to:

a. A well-crafted and organized essay (500 word minimum)
b. An engaging and professionally-developed digital presentation
c. A multimedia video and/or podcast

The total project should include relevant and sufficient textual evidence, an original and concise analysis of the evidence, and a compelling personal connection.

Fast Food Nation

Identify three fast food restaurants that you frequent. Describe what you order from those restaurants. Then, explain whether this text has impacted your restaurant choices and the menu items that you choose. How do you plan to move forward with these decisions, and why?

Choose a creative outlet to communicate your daily eating habits BEFORE and AFTER your reading of the text. Some ideas include, but are not limited to:

a. A well-crafted and organized essay (500 word minimum)
b. An engaging and professionally-developed digital presentation
c. A multimedia video and/or podcast
d. A tri-fold poster board

The total project should include relevant and sufficient textual evidence, an original and concise analysis of the evidence, and a compelling personal connection.