

## *Voices of Change*

### An Analysis of Positive Leadership Practices Amongst Various Influential Individuals Throughout History

"Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the form of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question." - Thomas Jefferson

Over the course of your studies in the AVID Senior Seminar, you will explore the theme of "leadership" through the study of individuals who have promoted positive changes in politics and/or society. As part of your studies, you will be asked to choose an influential figure that you are particularly interested in learning more about.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to learn how to identify the qualities of a good leader, and to gain experience in using both primary and secondary sources to analyze your leader's successes and/or failures in working to exact positive changes in either politics or society. Finally, you will be expected to articulate your findings in a well-written research paper with cited sources. This project is meant to provide you with a glimpse of the type of work you will be expected to complete in a college course on a regular basis.

**Logistics:** You will be given a list of pre-approved individuals from whom you may choose to study; however, if there is a person you would like to research who does not appear on the list, you must have him/her approved by your instructor first. You must choose a leader to research by: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sources:** Once you have chosen an approved leader, you are required to obtain an autobiography and/or biography about his/her life as part of your required reading for this course. It is suggested that you do some research in order to find a publication that will provide you with pertinent information, and be an interesting read. Contact the local librarian at the public library, read online reviews of various books, or inquire at a local bookstore. You may check out your book from the library, but it is suggested that you purchase your own copy so you can annotate the text and mark pages of interest.

In addition to reading a book by or about your leader, you will be required to read at least five other sources, **three** of which should be authored by the person you are studying - this is known as a *primary source document*. *Secondary sources* are writings by other authors. Your final paper should include six sources in total; however, the more sources you use, the stronger your paper will be.

**Grading:** A grading rubric for the research paper will be provided on a separate sheet of paper. The research paper and related assignments will make-up 10% of your entire grade for the course. The overall grade for this assignment will consist of successful completion of a variety of in class and out-of-class activities, as well as the final paper.