**American Literature team**

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**Council for American Studies Education presentation**

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**Title of Presentation:**

A Community Learning: Exploring Individuality and Conformity in American Culture

**DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of our presentation is to offer audiences a demonstration of an instructional unit whose focus is the exploration of controversies related to the nexus of individualism, conformity, and community in both historical and contemporary contexts. This unit is part of an eleventh-grade an integrated program including American Literature & Composition and United States History courses situated in a three-year core curriculum that emphasizes the development of moral, cultural, and intellectual traditions in the United States—and how those developments are both cultivated and problematized. As a matter of design, this unit purposefully integrates content, skills, and interdisciplinarity to provide students with a maximally coherent framework for learning. Broadly speaking, one of the explicit purposes of the core curriculum in which this unit appears is the development of students’ understandings of community, the individual’s relationship to it, and the controversies that emerge from their interplay.

**I. Theoretical structure: Overview of American Literature & Composition Course’s focus**

 A. Purposeful design

B. Common core of studies for all students

C. Chronological sequence, horizontal alignment with U.S. History, foreign language, physics

D. Controversial topics--Now & Then

E. Essential questions, larger purpose as they string together

F. Specific rationale for this unit—leading out of Puritans, physical frontier & psychological frontier

**II. Instructional: unit study *for Individual and Conformity***

A. Rubric In-Rubric Out Unit Design

B. Transcendentalist Primary text selection

C. Annotation focus

D. Critical Reasoning Activity

E. Secondary texts, visual literacy

F. Modifications

**III. Cultural outcomes: Curricular Principles for the Promotion of Civic Development**

A. Engagement of American cultural rhetoric: analysis and critique

B. Critical thinking

C. Community learning & civic development