

English 11/AP English Language and Composition
American Identity Synthesis Essay
Due: Lab period, Tuesday, November 27
Take a maximum of 80 minutes to complete this exercise

Using at least three of the sources attached—these sources are longer than the ones used on the AP exam, so allow yourself a little more time to read—write a well organized essay in which you support, refute or qualify the claim:

The American identity, rather than being based on individual material achievement, is primarily a moral construct.

The most successful essays will refine (i.e., make more specific) the idea of the “moral construct” rather than merely pointing to moral aspects of the sources. The emphasis, as always, should be analytical: on the “how” rather than the “what.”

Cite sources using author name when it does not occur in your signal phrase. If a source has multiple pages, give the visible page number.

Essays should have a thesis, three body paragraphs and a conclusion if needed.

Take 20 minutes to read and 10 minutes to plan your response before writing; write for about 40 minutes.

Please do not collaborate or consult the Interwebs on this assignment.

Sources A and B are Columbus and Franklin, respectively, which you have already read.