



# PLANO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

2200 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY

PLANO, TEXAS 75075

## ***To the sophomores who will be taking AMERICAN STUDIES at PSHS during 2009-2010:***

We, the American Studies team, want to be the first to welcome you to Plano Senior High School. We know you will find your years at PSHS exciting, rewarding and challenging.

During the summer, we are asking that you complete assignments that will help you prepare for American Studies.

- We want you to come to school in August having read ***The Scarlet Letter*** by Nathaniel Hawthorne. During the first week of school, you will be required to analyze this novel by applying terms with which you are familiar, such as conflict, plot, character, setting, theme, symbol and social criticism. You should read the novel carefully and be prepared to recall details.
- Along with reading ***The Scarlet Letter***, you will need to find an article of *literary criticism*. Go to any library, look up this novel, locate a scholarly literary criticism that you comprehend and that presents insights into the novel. *Copy* the criticism, *highlight* and *annotate* the passages that you find enlightening, and be ready to *share* these insights with your American Studies class. Please consider your fellow American Studies students and do not check these books of criticism out of the Plano libraries. By leaving them in the library, you are sharing the limited resources. Make sure that you are not just using a criticism that the librarian has been kind enough to copy for students. Please do not use [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) as a source for literary criticisms. You need to search for one in an actual library.
- In addition to the aforementioned assignments, you will need to purchase ***The American Reader*** (ISBN 978-0062737335 ). It is available at Barnes & Noble at both Preston and Park and 15<sup>th</sup> and Central and at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Read, annotate, and summarize the following:

“The Mayflower Compact”

“The Landing” by William Bradford

You should determine the purpose of each essay and annotate appeals to emotion and reason and stylistic and rhetorical devices used to further that purpose.

Have a wonderful summer! We look forward to meeting you in August!

***The PSHS American Studies Team***  
***Matt Cone and Sheila Holsinger***