***Romeo and Juliet***

**In Defense of *Romeo and Juliet* Assignment**  
As one of the oldest English plays on record, *Romeo and Juliet* is considered an integral part of our romantic culture and is taught throughout the United States as well as many other countries. However, as an ancient piece of literature, one might call into question its application or importance to the present culture and student.   
  
The question educators most often ask themselves is “how will this work of literature benefit or teach our students?” In most cases, a piece of literature is taught with a specific purpose in mind; we use short stories and novels to teach character or plot or symbolism, and poems to teach tone, speaker, and/or theme. Although we do use *Romeo and Juliet* to teach concepts like iambic pentameter and foils, the play remains in our curriculum for other and more significant objectives.  
  
**Your Task**:  
As a student who has completed the study of *Romeo and Juliet*, you will create a podcast/short movie relating to your audience the import of teaching *Romeo and Juliet* to the students of today.  
Essential questions to consider answering while developing the movie:

* Though the lives and culture of the Renaissance Period differ from our own, what parallels can we draw or lessons can we learn from them? (Think about what you researched in the beginning of the unit.)
* What does reading the earliest stories of our English culture teach us?
* Why should the modern student read *Romeo and Juliet*?

**Requirements:**

1. 3-5 minute time length
2. Address the essential questions; they are what you are supposed to be answering through this project. WHY do we read *Romeo and Juliet*?
3. A brief plot summary (a teaser—don’t give away everything, but get your audience interested in the story)
4. An introduction to one character (this may be included in the summary)
5. Pictures/animation, sound effects/songs for accompaniment
6. Proper citation of images or sound clips. Mrs. Krill will help to explain! [Copyright & Fair Use](http://hsliterature.swsd.wikispaces.net/Copyright+%26+Fair+Use) & [Planning and Organizing](http://hsliterature.swsd.wikispaces.net/Planning+and+Organizing).
7. Submission to schooltube.com (Mrs. Brodbeck will explain.)

**Grading**:  
There will be a rubric to assess this project. The rubric will be distributed prior to the start of this project.  
  
We will (hopefully) be able to view all videos in class as long as they are 100% appropriate. You may work with **one** other person if you so desire, but choose carefully. I will be asking you to complete an evaluation of your partner.