

Mazelow and Johnston

## African Meeting of the Minds

2013 is the Year of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance  
Final Project DRAFT

Rationale:

- Draw upon your understandings from the year
- Look forward to the future through the eyes of an African role model
- Promote “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena” (AU Report)

Too often in the recent history of Africa, other nations and international organizations have determined the course of action so as a final project for the sophomore sections on Africa will be an African Meeting of the Minds. We will call together African leaders from recent history and the present to solve the problems of the day, emphasizing African agency and intellect. The goal will be to “facilitate and celebrate African narratives of past, present and future that will enthuse and energize the African population and use their constructive energy to accelerate a forward looking agenda of Pan-Africanism and renaissance in the 21st century. It provides a unique opportunity, and comes at a moment when Africa is on the rise, and must therefore build its confidence in its future.” (AU Report) Primary source research, verbal argumentation, and historical empathy will all be employed as students take on the roles of these different people using historical context, speeches, and current events to think creatively about the future.

PROCESS

1. Spend some time really thinking about who you want to be. Explore several options on both lists. Make a case (one paragraph) for at least THREE of the people on the list (at least one from each category, starring your first choice). Turn in your choices beginning May 13 but definitely by May 17. First come, first serve!
2. Research who you are: use databases!
3. Use your notes from the year (current events, readings, tests etc.) to address the key questions. Be sure to draw upon current events.
4. By May 22/23, write a resume for your individual. Imagine you are applying to be the head of a new organization called, African Futures. Include an Objective (why you want this job), your job experiences (contributions), your educational background, a few evaluative quotes by people who knew you, and a review of your interests or skills. (sample resume attached)

5. Find a primary source, a speech, a You Tube clip, a song, or something that has “your voice” literally or figuratively. Make sure you have this by May 24. You will have 2 minutes in class to introduce yourself in a creative way.
6. On Thursday/ Friday May 30/31, submit a two part (one page each– not including the works cited) (single spaced), written statement.

Part A. Biosketch This should include your person’s opinions, quotes and related facts in order to demonstrate how you will be contributing to the conversation. Write about one of the topics in a bit more detail based on what your person would be most interested in (but be prepared to talk about everything!) Write it in the first person—be sure that you use your own words and include in text citations for all quoted or paraphrased material.

Part B. Million Dollar Lottery This should identify how you would allocate a million dollars if you had it to spend on the challenges that Africa faces. What are your priorities? Explain.

Part C. Works Cited (MLA Citations but not annotations are not needed.)

7. Be prepared to make a 90 second Opening Statement on the first MOM discussion day and to engage throughout the two days on the issues at hand. (June 3 and 5<sup>th</sup>)
8. In class, write a letter to one of next year’s sophomores\*. Given the challenges that Africa faces currently due to WHAT WORLD HISTORICAL EVENTS, as well as the leadership potential in the continent (REFER TO SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND PEOPLE YOU HEARD THE LAST FEW DAYS), what do you think has hindered Africa most and what do you think is the promise of Africa’s future? (include historical and current references that show you understand how understanding the global context has mattered for Africa.) Provide specific examples that give you hope, and also cause for concern. Considering your own personal perspective, what do you believe the next steps in 2013 should be for the region to move forward? Your response should be 1000– 1200 words. Letter due on–line by June 5<sup>th</sup>.

\* These letters will be read by next year’s classes and will help them to understand what YOU have learned this year in the course.

## Choices

### TOPIC A: THE PAST

Leaders Séance (six will be chosen)

### Sample Issues that you might focus in on:

- Corruption
- Ethnic Conflict
- Foreign Aid dependency
- Neo-colonialism (Dependency model, resource exploitation continuation, globalization)
- Human Rights: for ex. Gay rights, cutting, violence against women, KONY
- Democratization

1. Julius Nyerere (Tanzania)
2. Haile Selassie (Ethiopia)
3. Leopold Senghor (Senegal)
4. Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya)
5. Patrice Lumumba (Congo)
6. Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana)
7. Nelson Mandela (South Africa)
8. Samora Machel (Mozambique)
9. Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt)
10. Olusegun Obasanjo (Nigeria)
11. Ahmed Sekou Toure (Guinea)

### TOPIC B: TODAY

#### Modern Political and Human Rights Activists (six will be chosen)

### Sample Issues that you might focus in on:

- Corruption
- Ethnic Conflict
- Foreign Aid dependency
- Neo-colonialism (Dependency model, resource exploitation continuation, globalization)
- Human Rights: for ex. Gay rights, cutting, violence against women, KONY

- Democratization
- Environmental issues: Exploitation of resources, land and animals

1. Wangari Maathai, Kenyan environmental activist and politician
2. Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Liberian president
3. Amina Az-Zubair, Nigerian development worker (TED TALK 2011)
4. Wael Ghonim, Egyptian activist ([Ted Talk](#))
5. Kofi Annan, former UN secretary general from Ghana
6. Dambisa Moyo, Zambian economist
7. Paul Kagame, current Rwandan president
8. Desmond Tutu, South African archbishop activist
9. Jenni Williams, Zimbabwean activist
10. Gbowee Leyman, Liberian activist
11. George Weah, Liberian humanitarian, politicians, ex-footballer
12. Frank Mugisha, Uganda gay activist
13. Goodluck Jonathan, Nigerian president
14. King Mohammed VI, Moroccan king
15. Jacob Zuma, South African president
16. Salva Kiir, South Sudanese president
17. Ken Saro-Wiwa, Nigerian environmental activist
18. Fatou Bensouda, Gambian woman, new head of ICC
19. Ngozi-Okonjo-Iweala, Nigerian Minister of Economics (Ted Talk  
**\*\*[Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: Want to help Africa? Do business here](#)**)
20. Andrew Mwenda, Ugandan journalist (TED talk: [Andrew Mwenda takes a new look at Africa](#))
21. Euvyn Naidoo, Banking Executive, South Africa (Ted Talk: [Euvyn Naidoo quoted: "George Kimble said, 'The only thing dark about Africa is our ignorance of it.' So let's start s..."](#))
22. George Ayittey, Ghanaian economist (Ted Talk: **\*\*[George Ayittey on Cheetahs vs. Hippos](#)** )
23. Eleni Gabre- Madhin, Female Ethiopian economist (TED talk: [Eleni Gabre-Madhin on Ethiopian economics](#) )
24. Ernest Madu, Nigerian cardiologist (Ted Talk: [Ernest Madu on world-class health care](#))
25. Dr. Seyi Oyesola , Nigerian medical consultant- creator of "Hospital in a Box" (Ted Talk: [Dr. Seyi Oyesola tours a hospital in Nigeria](#))

### Topic C: African Identity and the Arts (six will be chosen)

#### Sample Issues that you might focus in on:

- Cultural globalization-influence of westernization: music, dance, beauty, food
- Human Rights
- Religious conflict-missionaries, Christianity, Islam, traditional beliefs

- Colonial legacy i.e. court system of justice, education,
- Dilemma of traditional language and/or colonizers language such as French and English
- “Black Consciousness”

1. Patrick Awuah, President of Ashesi University, Ghana
2. Chimamanda Adichie, Nigerian writer ([TED TALK](#))
3. Emmanuel Jal, Sudanese child soldier, now famous musician
4. Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Kenyan author
5. Miriam Makeba, South African singer /anti-apartheid activist
6. Chinua Achebe, renowned Nigerian author
7. Salif Keita, Malian Afro-pop singer/ songwriter
8. Youssou N'Dour, Senegalese singer/ actor/ musician
9. Roger Milla, Cameroonian footballer, education work
10. Ousmane Sembene, Senegalese film-maker
11. Wole Soyinka, Nobel laureate, playwright and novelist
12. Baaba Maal, Senegalese singer and guitarist
13. Abedi Pele, Ghanaian footballer
14. Ali Farka Toure, Malian blues musician
15. Steven Biko (South Africa)
16. Chris Abani (Ted talk: [Chris Abani on the stories of Africa](#))

This [BBC forum](#) is really interesting as it is a dialogue amongst mostly Africans about their role models.

## Questions for the Roundtable

### DAY ONE: The Past and Present Challenges and Successes

#### TOPIC A: THE PAST

1. Nkrumah advocated unity of the continent during decolonization. What derailed the idea of Pan-Africanism?
2. What were the challenges that your newly independent countries faced?
3. How did slavery, colonial legacies, the Cold War, ethnic conflict, and neo-colonialism, including foreign aid, restrict(ed) the development of your nation, and Africa at large?
4. What successes did you help to implement?
5. How do you see globalization having helped and hindered that process?

#### TOPIC B: TODAY

##### Part 1. Modern Political and Human Rights Activists

1. What successes do you see in Africa today?
2. What historical events over the past 200 years helped to create/ shape the challenges you are trying to address?
3. What are the most significant steps that Africans need to take in order to address the challenges that your country and the continent faces?
4. How does globalization both help and hinder the process?
5. What are the goals and purposes of the African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity)? How well has it achieved their objectives?
6. Think about the advantages of the European Union. What characteristics of these sorts of collaborative nation state arrangements could benefit Africa today?
7. How are Africans today uniting across national boundaries to solve problems relating to historical legacies, cultural identity, regional conflicts, environmental challenges, and common economic dilemmas?
8. What do you hope to see change?

##### Part 2. African Identity and the Arts

1. According to some African intellectuals like Ngugi wa Thiong'o, the African needs to embrace their cultural heritage. Do you agree with this assessment?
2. How can individual African identities be honored considering the force of globalization?
3. How are Africans today uniting across national boundaries to solve problems relating to cultural identity?
4. What historical events over the past 200 years helped to create/ shape the challenges you encounter?

#### DAY 2 THE FUTURE:

What are the components necessary for Africa to adopt Pan-Africanism as a guiding philosophy within the next 50 years? Economically? Socially? Culturally? politically? Should they?

**INSERT EXCERPTS FROM AU HERE**

## Africa--Meeting of the Minds Rubric

<b>Background</b>	<b>/40</b>
Topic Choice	
Introduction (creative)	
Haiku Jobfair questions and responses	
Resume (Objective, Experiences/ Contributions, Education, Quotes, Skills)	
<b>Bio-sketch</b>	<b>/20</b>
Identifies who you are and what you think the challenges Africa faces are	
Understanding of historical roots of the problems	
Quotes, facts, and proposals	
Focus in on one specific topic a bit more than others	
<b>Million Dollar Lottery</b>	<b>/20</b>
Plan for how your person would prioritize the spending	
Evidence to support	
<b>Oral Participation (2 long days, including one project day)</b>	<b>/40</b>
Opening statement	
Attention to PanAfricanism and the new African Renaissance	
Staying in persona character	
Use of evidence (quotes, examples, context)	
Engaged and participatory	
Asking good questions	
Listening attentively	
Moving discussion forward	
<b>Letter (1000-1200 words)</b>	<b>/30</b>
Understanding of historical context	
Challenges Africa faces currently	
Leadership potential	
Past obstacles	
Future promise	
Next steps	
Overall thoughtfulness	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>/150</b>

