

# Previewing the Unit

## LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Think-Pair-Share, Skimming/Scanning, Marking the Text, Close Reading, KWHL Chart

## My Notes

## Learning Targets

- Preview the big ideas and vocabulary for the unit.
- Identify and analyze the skills and knowledge necessary for success in writing a definition essay.

## Making Connections

In this unit, you will read a variety of texts and be asked to think about ideas and concepts that are “American.” For the first embedded assessment, you will define what it means to be an American. Some words, concepts, and ideas are too complex for a simple definition and require a multi-paragraph essay to define. Definitions also provide a writer the opportunity to clear up misconceptions about a concept or idea. You will learn to define a word or concept using four definition strategies: by example, by classification, by function, and by negation.

## Essential Questions

Based on your current knowledge, how would you answer these questions?

1. How do writers use the strategies of definition to define a concept?
2. What is “the American Dream?”

## Developing Vocabulary

Use QHT or another strategy to review the Academic Vocabulary and Literary Terms. Decide which ones you may know already and which ones will need additional study.

## Unpacking Embedded Assessment 1

Closely read the assignment for Embedded Assessment 1: Writing a Definition Essay.

Your assignment is to write a multi-paragraph essay that defines your interpretation of what it means to be an American. This essay should use the strategies of definition and different perspectives from the unit to help you develop a complex and thoughtful definition. If possible, incorporate an iconic image in your essay.

With your class, create a graphic organizer as you “unpack” the requirements of Embedded Assessment 1. What knowledge must you have (what do you need to know) and what skills must you have (what must you be able to do) to be successful on this assignment?

## INDEPENDENT READING LINK

To enhance this unit’s focus on multiple perspectives on the American Dream, focus your independent reading goals on reading nonfiction essays, memoirs, autobiographies, or biographies that will help you understand how others define the American Dream.