Gender Seminar: Masculinity and Entering the Conversation

Mr. Eble, AP Language & Composition

**This will be a non-traditional seminar** in which you role-play as the author of the texts in this reading or as an interviewer for a particular organization.

As the **author, your goal** is to provide an accurate representation of the author’s response to the definitions and images of masculinity in today’s society, particularly these questions:

* To what extent is are images of masculinity injurious to men and women today?
* What is the central issue facing boys and young men in our society?
* What unique challenges does manhood present men?
* What are the implications of our society’s definition, images of masculinity?

You should spend the prep time reviewing your text, developing a statement / set of quotes to illustrate the author’s main ideas and answers to the questions above:

1. Brent Staples, “Walk on By” (*LoC* 541-544) – Drew Scott / Sam Waldbillig
2. Kehinde Wiley, *The Chancellor Seguier on Horseback* (*LoC* pages 562-564) – John Geyer / Jake Wermes
3. Leonard McCombe, “Marlboro Man” – Liam Taylor / Jeff Shagena
4. Paul Theroux, “Being a Man” – Austin Herriott / Andrew Smith
5. Gretel Ehrlich, “About Men” – Hank Woodard / Logan Cooper
6. Rebecca Walker, “Putting Down the Gun” – Ethan Callahan / Spencer Ballard
7. Mark Bauerlein and Sandra Stotsky, “Why Johnny Won’t Read” – Jacob Menke / Harrison Savarese
8. David Brooks, “Mind Over Muscle” – Eddy Pappalardo / Eli Proffitt

The rest of class will act as **interviewers** who pose questions for the authors about various facets of the problem; as an **interviewer**, you should spend the prep time reviewing the readings and developing three to five questions that you can ask the panel to gather information in regards to challenges, ideas you have about selected author’s stances on this topic.

**The goal** of this role-playing panel is for you to explore the arguments in the questions and facts surrounding the topic of masculinity and to challenge the panel members’ viewpoints. Your questions should reflect challenges that you have for the author, as well as areas in which you would like clarity or topics that the author may not address explicitly, but that you’d like him / her to discuss in light of what is presented.

**Post-Seminar Blog**: You’ll write a blog for homework, but in the following format:

1. **Summary**: What were the notable ideas / claims presented throughout this seminar to demonstrate the intricacies in the topic of masculinity? Who made the most cogent claims / asked the best questions? Why?
2. **Analysis**: How did this seminar affect your stance on the topic of masculinity? Explain, connecting the texts (specific attributed / cited quotes) in your answer.
3. **Extension:** Based on the discussion, extend your reading / participation into another realm related to masculinity; you may answer one of the questions above by alluding to a current issue or to your film review.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know.