

## American Dream Weebly Assignment:

Semester-long culminating assignment

Students complete in the classroom a **character analysis** comparing two characters they have learned about through literature read in the class. They also write a **self-reflective narrative** on their own American Dream. They **research a notable American** and write a formally cited MLA research paper. If time, teachers also ask students to complete **an interview** of a person of another generation who they respect.

Each of these pieces is integrated into the Weebly site. Through **collaboration** between school librarians and classroom teachers, we agreed that we wanted students not just to use the Weebly site as a holding place for papers but to get more involved in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skill “techie” aspects of website creation and making it **interactive** as well as to follow appropriate **copyright** guidelines.

Kids start their Weebly work early in the process (see Web Designer handout attached) and then worked on it regularly to add pieces related to the core parts of the assignment (listed above).

To start the Weebly, students created a basic storyboard for their Weebly site that they could continue building throughout the assignment. They also come to the library on the first day with their self-reflection complete so they would have something to get on the site immediately. Students set up their Weebly site and then read an article about copyright(attached). We discussed the article and their responses as a class and then show students how to search Google for copyright-friendly images and give them access to a list of sites for public domain images. <http://millbrookmediacenter.weebly.com/copyright.html>

### Materials for Library Days:

First Weebly workday → In class **before** coming to the library, students complete a storyboard – see handout attached and completed sample attached. Teachers also cover the grading rubric (attached). In the library students will use the Web Designer handout (attached) and Copyright Article (attached).

Teachers then schedule days to have students work. When students are ready they can use the suggestions on the attached page for making the character analysis and interview sections of their sites more interesting.

The librarians also provide classes with a series of group biographies (print/books) for students to browse when selecting the American they will research.

The librarians teach/review citations, databases helpful for research and use of our online citation maker, NoodleTools, when teachers are working on the research pieces.

**Tip** – some teachers set up a Google Form at the start with form fields for the student’s name and for him/her to copy/paste the Weebly URL – that way during presentations and grading, teachers can simply go down the spreadsheet in Google Drive and click on kids’ sites to open them. Also if a student means to use this URL for his/her site “myamericandream.weebly.com” but accidentally types “miamercandream.weebly.com” then the copy/pasted URL will be correct.

# Be a Web Designer!



Watch how to create a free website

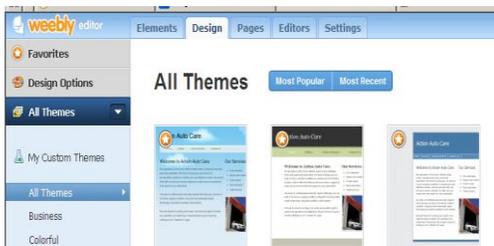
Go to <http://www.weebly.com>  
→ WATCH THE VIDEO ON THE HOMEPAGE!

1. **Register** for your own WEEBLY site! Use the signup boxes at <http://www.weebly.com>. **DO NOT** sign up with Facebook!

Use your “Getting Started” plan to make sure that you choose the correct title for the site.

Choose “Education” for **Type of Site**  
Choose “Class Project” for **Category**

2. **Set the URL** for your new website – use your planning handout to type in the correct URL. (Choose a “Subdomain of Weebly”)



3. Select the “**Design**” tab at the top of the page to choose a layout you like and a color scheme that works for your theme. If you go to “All Themes” be sure to choose one that says “By Weebly.”

4. Go to the “**Pages**” tab and add the webpages you currently have planned.

Pay attention to the “Layout” options as you set up each page.

5. Go back to the “**Elements**” tab and begin adding some paragraph boxes, pictures, etc. to your homepage by dragging the element you choose onto the homepage. **CLICK ON THE PUBLISH BUTTON WHEN YOU WANT TO SAVE!!**

Your Weebly site should look unique so you will need to learn how to do different aspects of web design independently. Find the **Weebly Help** section and open the help article on → Text and Images → Upload an Image. **Read** the article and

## STOP!

Raise your hand to get your next set of directions!

School librarians posted the following on our library Weebly website to help students get more creative with displaying their character analysis and interview:

## Tutorials - English III Weebly Options

**Character Analysis** - to translate your character analysis to an interactive webpage, you need to use dialogue. You can take the easy way out and integrate some images and text - if this is your choice, use the Elements tab in Weebly and use elements like - "Paragraph with Picture", "Picture", "Paragraph with Title", etc. If you need more help on basic elements, go to the Help! section in Weebly and clicked on "Text and Images."

### More creative character analysis options:

**Go Animate!** Use this free online program to create a dialogue between two animated characters. What would your characters say to each other and how can you show what you learned about these characters?

1. To get started, use Firefox (instead of Explorer) and go to <http://goanimate.com> and create an account.
2. If you just want to type a script and let GoAnimate do the rest, click on "Watch Tutorial" under "Quick Video Maker" - if you want to get more creative with how the characters work, click on "Watch Tutorial" -
3. Complete the INTERACTIVE TUTORIAL and then start creating your animation.

### **Getting the animation on your Weebly - use "Custom HTML"**

1. When you finish, select publish - make sure your video is public
2. Go to "Save and Share" - Select the <EMBED> button to get a code so that you can put the GoAnimate! video on your Weebly website. You can also get this code by clicking on the Share image under Your Videos and then selecting the Embed button </>
3. After you copy the code, drag a "Custom HTML" element onto the Weebly page and paste the Embed code into the HTML box. You should see the Go Animate! video you created after you Publish.

\* You can also try other sites like Xtranormal for creating your dialogue. Be creative!

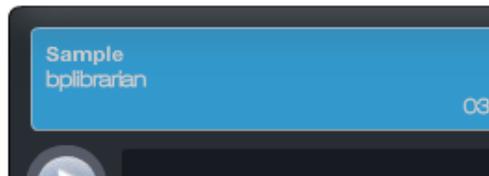
**Interview:** The interview page/section of your Weebly website **must include an audio component!** If you record your interview, you can save it and upload a file - common audio files are mp3 files or wav files. You can also use a website like **Vocaroo** or **AudioBoo** to create an account, make a recording and embed it in the website (use the Embed directions from above. You might work with another person to record a shortened version of the interview you did outside of school or you might record a short summary of the interview.

**\*\* Your audio file should not be longer than 1 to 2 minutes** - people will not listen to a LONG interview online. So, if you simply record your interview, you will need to edit it down to the best parts. At school you can use Audacity to edit or create audio files. Audacity is in the START menu.

 in\_the\_bedroom\_15.mp3  
[Download File](#)

 air RAID.wav  
[Download File](#)

**These are examples of audio files that were uploaded to the Weebly. I used the "File" element in the Multimedia elements area.**



**This is an example of an embedded AudioBoo. I copied the Embed code from the AudioBoo site after I recorded and then used the "Custom HTML" element from the Basic choices in Weebly.**

## American Dream Weebly Presentation

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Design	The Web site has an exceptionally attractive and usable layout. It is easy to locate all important elements. White space, graphic elements and/or alignment are used effectively to organize material.	The Web pages have an attractive and usable layout. It is easy to locate all important elements.	The Web pages have a usable layout, but may appear busy or boring. It is easy to locate most of the important elements.	The Web pages are cluttered looking or confusing. It is often difficult to locate important elements.
Copyright	Fair use guidelines are followed with clear, easy-to-locate and accurate citations for all borrowed material. No material is included from Web sites that state that permission is required unless permission has been obtained.	Fair use guidelines are followed with clear, easy-to-locate and accurate citations for almost all borrowed material. No material is included from Web sites that state that permission is required unless permission has been obtained.	Fair use guidelines are followed with clear, easy-to-locate and accurate citations for most borrowed material. No material is included from Web sites that state that permission is required unless permission has been obtained.	Borrowed materials are not properly documented OR material was borrowed without permission from a site that requires permission
Content - Self Reflection	Images and text both clearly demonstrate the student's American Dream. Content is enhanced by website design and choices.	Images and text clearly demonstrate the student's American Dream.	Images and text relate to student's American Dream but full understanding is lacking.	Student's own ideas of an American Dream are missing from the site.
Content - Characters	Dialogue between two characters is presented in a creative way. Characters' struggles and connection to the American Dream is fully understood.	Dialogue between two characters is evident. Characters' struggles and connection to the American Dream is clear on site.	Dialogue between two characters is evident. Viewer understands both characters' American Dream.	Dialogue component/ character component is missing.
Content - Interview	1 to 2 min Audio recording or component used to present interview. Page text and images enhance content of the interview and the interviewee's American Dream.	Audio recording or component used to present interview. Page text and images onnect to the content of the interview and the interviewee's American Dream.	Interview presented on Weebly. Page explains the interviewee's American Dream.	Interview component missing from the website.
Content - Research	Section demonstrating research shows full understanding of the researched person and his/her American Dream.	Section demonstrating research shows good understanding of the researched person and his/her American Dream.	Section demonstrating research shows some understanding of the researched person and his/her American Dream.	Section demonstrating research does not show full understanding of the researched person and his/her American Dream.
Speaking Skills	Presenter uses pitch, enthusiasm, volume, etc. to enhance the content of the presentation. Presenter clearly prepared and rehearsed.	Presenter uses pitch, enthusiasm, volume, etc. to be understood well during the presentation. Presenter did some preparation and rehearsal.	Presenter lacking some enthusiasm, volume, etc. to be understood well during the presentation. Presenter did some preparation and rehearsal.	Presenter clearly not prepared/ rehearsed.
Presentation Content	Presenter demonstrates full understanding of the components of the American Dream project and can answer questions thoroughly.	Presenter demonstrates decent understanding of the components of the American Dream project and can answer questions.	Presenter demonstrates understanding of parts of the components of the American Dream project.	Presenter does not demonstrate understanding of the components of the American Dream Project.

**Comments/Grade:**

## Copyright and Your Website!

Few changes have been as pronounced in the past decade as the shift from text-heavy content to messages delivered visually. Pairing increasingly sophisticated mobile devices with high-speed connections to the Web and cheap personal video and photography equipment, today's Internet users have led a visual content revolution. Video sharing sites like YouTube see millions of visitors every month and hours of new content uploaded every minute. More than 85 percent of all connected Americans watch online video, averaging an astounding 182 unique views per user each month. Pair that with the 4 billion images that have been uploaded to the popular photo sharing site [Flickr](#) and the 300 million new video game systems sold in America every year, and it becomes obvious that we're simply swimming in a world of visuals.

Students have joined in as active participants in this visual revolution. They're using cell phones to capture pictures and videos. They're remixing videos found online and uploading new, original versions to the Web. They're combining favorite audio tracks with collections of images to create interesting final products designed to entertain their peers or impress their teachers — and in the process, they're joining the 50 percent of online Americans sharing user-generated images and 20 percent of online American sharing user-generated videos each month.

The hitch is this: Our students are also generally careless in using images, audio tracks, and videos created by others fairly. Having had easy access to multimedia content for their entire lives, students rarely understand that the same copyright protections they've learned to respect when working with text-based materials apply to new media creations as well. Instead of working to establish ownership and asking for permission to use this kind of content, most students simply search topics and download the best sources that they can find.

Is the author right about students' use of images and other content they find on the internet?    Yes    No

Justify your answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You should assume that everything you find on the internet is copyrighted. It is not enough to give credit (through a citation) and then borrow anything you want. You need to check that all images are LEGALLY allowed to be put on your site. "If you post copyrighted material, such as an image, to a website where anyone can view it, without specific permission, you are infringing on copyright. This includes material already published on the web."

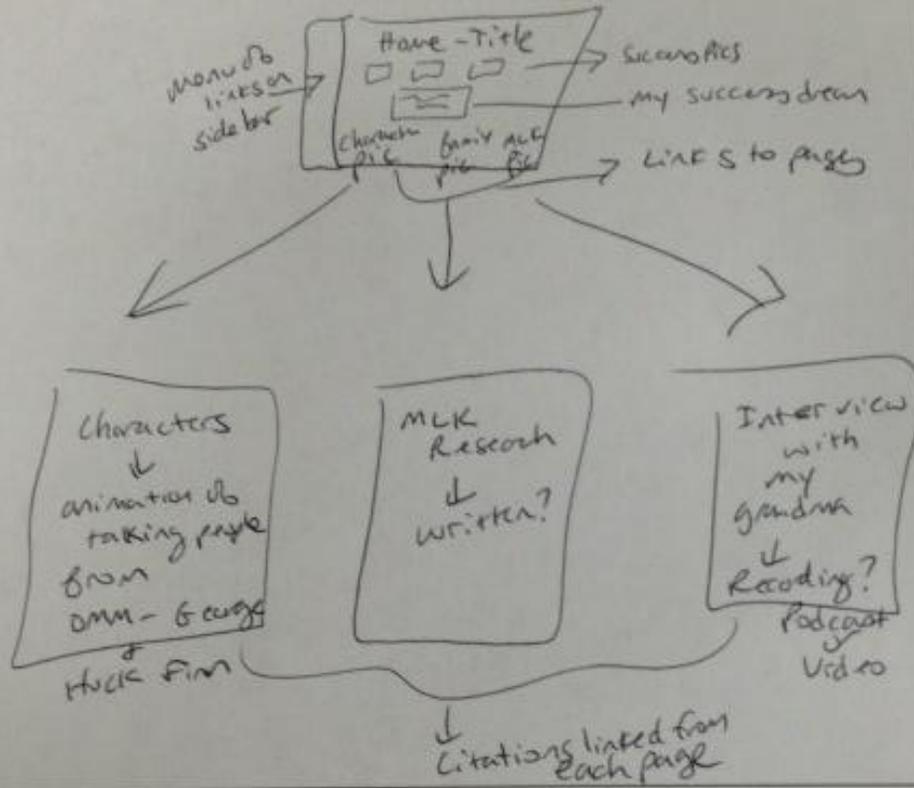
So, what can you do when creating your website to follow copyright law and be an ethical student? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When choosing images, audio, etc. for your website, you should search for files that are in the "public domain" or licensed for others to borrow. Finding images that have Creative Commons licenses is one way to be sure you are doing the right thing! Go to the MHS library media center website and click on "Links" to find ways to search for images with the right kind of license. All images should be legally borrowed and cited on your website with the URL where you found it.

From: Ferriter, Bill. "Teaching Students about the Creative Commons." *Learn NC*. UNC School of Education, n.d. Web. 23 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/6443>>.

Place a basic sketch of your Weebly site here.

Use your rubric to make sure your plan covers all requirements.



**Getting Started:**

Title of Site: Dreams of Success

URL: http://kerri.american.dream.weebly.com

Mood or Tone of the Overall Design and Theme: Positive, Joy, Optimistic

# of Pages 4 Description of Pages:  
 3+ home page (5 citations each)  
 - characters  
 - interview - MLK research

**Images Needed/Keywords:**

Money, dollar bills, coins, house, home, happy family, children, college, university, MLK, old woman  
 Photos of - my grandma, my family

**Home Page Description →**

General Design: Bright colors, Frames for pictures, Sidebar with links

Content:  
 + Brief into about MLK  
 \* My own success pictures + story  
 \* Links to pages - on page + sidebar

Do your choices of colors/images/etc. match your topic?

**Have you →**

- made sure all links go to quality pages and are still active?
- checked all copyright for photos, clip art, sounds, etc.?
- proofread your text for spelling, grammar, punctuation?
- cited all sources of information?

Place a basic sketch of your Weebly site here.

Use your rubric to make sure your plan covers all requirements.

### Getting Started:

Title of Site: \_\_\_\_\_

URL: http://\_\_\_\_\_.weebly.com

Mood or Tone of the Overall Design and Theme:  
\_\_\_\_\_

# of Pages \_\_\_\_\_ Description of Pages:

### Images Needed/Keywords:

### Home Page Description →

General Design:

Content:

### Have you →

- made sure all links go to quality pages and are still active?
- checked all copyright for photos, clip art, sounds, etc.?
- proofread your text for spelling, grammar, punctuation?
- cited all sources of information?