**English 9**

**WebQuest – *The Catcher in the Rye* Background Information**

**Objective**

To acquaint yourselves with Holden Caulfield's world, you will conduct informal web research on social and political issues facing America in the 1940s and 50s.  Research your assigned topic thoroughly, but feel free to explore other areas as well.  Complete your accompanying handout as specifically as you can.

**Directions**

Within your group, there will be four roles: the biographer, literary critic, the historian and the teenager. Each of you will become an expert in your area and report your results to your group. Keep in mind you are sharing important information; therefore, make sure you understand and have grasped the information well enough to share it with your group members. Once you have   
shared your information you will be an expert in not only your role but in the others as well. Your group will be assigned one side of the argument as to whether or not *The Catcher in the Rye* should be taught to high school students.

**Process**

1. First you must decide which role each person in your group will take (see files below):
   * The Biographer’s main job is to study JD Salinger’s life.
   * The Literary Critic will look at articles dealing with *The Catcher   
     in the Rye* and analyze them.
   * The Historian will study the era in which *The Catcher in the Rye*   
     was written.
   * The Teenager will look at teenage life in the 1940-50's and compare this to current life, analyzing the importance of teenagers and their connection to the novel.
2. Once you pick your role, your job is to study the information related to your role and answer all the questions listed on your page.
3. The next part of your assignment is to come together and discuss your findings with the other members of your group.
4. When you meet, make sure you take notes on everyone’s findings; we will be having a quiz on the background information.