**Unit #3: Technology and Pop Culture**

AP Language and Composition

**In-class Synthesis Essay**

The following synthesis task is based on readings from the unit in *AAS* on *Genes*. Read (or reread) the following texts and examine the following images closely after reading the introduction and the prompt.

**Introduction**: “Breakthroughs in genetics present us with a promise and a predicament. The promise is that we may soon be able to treat and prevent a host of debilitating diseases. The predicament is that our newfound genetic knowledge may also enable us to manipulate our own nature.” – Sandel

**Prompt**: Read and synthesize the following sources. Then, write an essay using three or more of these sources as support, in which you develop a position on the importance of public awareness and understanding of genetic engineering in a global society.

**Sources:**

Source A “Who Gets the Good Genes?” (Wright)

Source B “The Real Meaning of Genetics” (Cohen)

Source C “The Return of Eugenics” (Mitchell)

Source D “The Case Against Perfection” (Sandel)

Source E Image – “Impacting Many Disciplines” (HGN)

\*\*\* Remember, you are developing an argument and then supporting it with your research and the sources provided. Do not merely summarize what the sources say – use them as evidence for your argument. This should be writer driven, rather than a source driven, argument.

**Specifics**:

* You will have two evenings to prepare for this essay. Be sure to read, analyze, and synthesize each of the sources in order to formulate your thesis before coming into class to write the assignment.
* Cite sources using the author’s last name as you write.
* You will have 40 minutes in class to write this essay and it will count as a 40 point grade. We are using the synthesis rubric on scale 2 for this assignment.