At the end of every unit, you will be adding to your working definition of what it means to be an American. To aid us with this task, you will have a notebook designated specifically for your quotes/notes from everything that we read in class (short stories, poems, articles, videos, novels, your SSR book(s), etc).

* You will divide each page into two columns. At the top, you will write what unit/question(s) these notes help answer. The column on the left will have quotes (including the text’s name and page number) that help you **DEFEND** your argument. The column on the right will explain how each quote helps defend your definition of being American.
* At the end of each Friday, you are to write a brief reflection (about half a page) on your working definition in this notebook. Consider the following questions to help you with this reflection:
  + How has your definition changed/evolved as we read different texts?
    - If it has changed, what caused this change?
  + How has your definition been challenged?
  + How has your definition been strengthened?

By the time we start to create and add to our project, you will already have all of your notes/quotes/ideas you would like to use all in one place.

Use this example to use as a model for your entries:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year-Long: What does it mean to be an American?**  **Unit One: What unites and divides a country as endlessly diverse as it is large?** | |
| **Quote/Source** | **Response** |
| **Article from New York Times “When the President is Un-American”**  “Real Americans understand that our nation is built around values, not the ‘blood and soil’ of the marchers’ chants; what makes you an American is your attempt to live up to those values, not the place or race your ancestors came from.” | This quote helps my argument by demonstrating that Americans don’t have to be born in America. Being American is living up the values/ideals that this country was built upon and working together to do so. |