***Social Injustice* Opt-Out Form**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Anchorage School District English IV curriculum lists “Social Justice” as its overarching theme for 3rd quarter English. While a large portion of the quarter will focus on historical racism (i.e. segregation, Jim Crow laws, police brutality, etc.) in the context of literature, some of my lessons will be devoted to analyzing how these historical issues still play out in society today. Consequently, I will be presenting your son/daughter with materials that will help him/her not only understand these issues but also be able to discuss them in an intelligent and logical manner.

In the pursuit of this endeavor, I intend to show your son/daughter’s class two news clips of separate cases of police brutality (one involving Eric Garner—an African American man who died after encountering police on the streets of New York, and one involving Laquan McDonald, an African American teenager who died after meeting with police on the streets of Chicago). I have previewed the footage and recognize that the violence may be upsetting to some. With that said, this lesson is designed for seniors, and I anticipate their maturity and life experiences will help them with viewing the footage and being insightful in our discussions.

If you do not wish your son/daughter to watch these excerpts from the news, then please check the following line and sign below; an alternative assignment will then be provided that is still related to the topic at hand. If you are okay with them watching these clips, you can simply view this letter as informational, and no other steps are required on your part.

However you respond to this letter, I would like to make clear *that it will be more difficult* for your son/daughter to participate in class discussions and respond effectively to my assignments if they have not seen the clips in question.

\_\_\_\_\_I DO NOT WANT MY SON/DAUGHTER WATCHING ANY PART OF THESE CLIPS; PLEASE PROVIDE HIM/HER WITH AN ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Alex Bassett

English Teacher

South High School