**Breaking Binaries Assignment Sheet**

**Assignment**: You will be analyzing a binary of high school stereotypes in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian.* You will find examples your binary while reading the book, and write an in-class essay as part of our test on the book at the end of the unit.

**Requirements**: Your essay MUST:

- Have a clear thesis discussing which half of the binary is “favored” in the book (is it better to be an athlete or a nerd according to Sherman Alexie?). THIS IS NOT AN OPINION QUESTION. YOUR ANALYSIS MUST BE BASED ON THE BOOK.

- Show clear organization of ideas.

- Include examples from the text and QUOTE specific passages as evidence (with citations).

**Guiding Questions**: Here are some questions to get you thinking:

- How and why do people make groups? (Ex. Us vs. them)

- How do these groups impact your life at WPHS on a daily basis?

- Why does your binary exist and what purpose does it serve? (Hint: why does it matter if you’re a goth or a prep? etc.)

- How does society view the binary?

- How could you bridge or break the binary? What would happen at WPHS or just generally to our society if you were successful?

**Grading**: Your response will be graded out of 40 points:

* Reflects a clear and comprehensive understanding of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (5 points)
* Addresses the prompt throughout (2 points)
* Have a clear thesis/argument (5 points)
* Show evidence of organization and thought (5 points)
* Provides examples from the text to support arguments (10 points)
* Meaningfully uses at least 5 quotes from the text (10 points)
* At least 5 full paragraphs (3 points)

**Possible Binaries:**

-Class Clown v. Up-tight

-Outsider v. Insider

-Snarky/Sassy v. Sincere/Innocent

-Friendly v. Loner

-The Loudmouth v. the Quiet kid

-Goth v. Prep

-Wannabe v. the Hipster

-Mamma’s boy v. Thug

-Freshman v. Upperclassman

-The Cheerleader v. the Loser

-The Blonde v. the Brunette

-The Teacher’s pet v. the Burnout

-Hero v. Sidekick

-The Bully v. the Bullied

-The Jock v. the Nerd

-Truth v. Deception

-Hot v. Not

-Passivity v. Violence

-Rich v. Poor

-Home v. School

-Teacher v. Student

-Parent v. Child

-Perfect v. Imperfect

-Friends v. Enemies

-Warrior v. Weakling

-Follower v. Leader

-Boys v. Girls

-Student v. Athlete

-Fed v. Hungry

-Old v. New

-Individual v. Community

-Advantage v. Disadvantage

-Smart v. Stupid

-Old v. Young

-Writer v. Artist

-Healthy v. Unhealthy

-Hero v. Villain

-Strong v. Weak

-Drunk v. Sober

-Cover v. Content (Outside v. Inside)

-Respect v. Disrespect

-Identity v. Namelessness

-Risk-taker v. Scaredy Cat

-Same v. Different

-Cyclical v. Linear

-Victory v. Defeat

-Pride v. Shame

-Together v. Alone

-Remember v. Forget

-Cruel v. Kind

-Public v. Private

-Sane v. Crazy

-Rational v. Illogical

-Modest v. Arrogant