

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Black American Playwrights

### Topdog/Underdog Essay

#### Directions:

This is a **summative assessment**. It must be completed **individually, on paper**. Electronic submissions will **not** be accepted.

Students may use...

- Paper copies of *Topdog/Underdog* in the yellow folders
- "Who is Topdog?" notes sheet
- Themes Graphic Organizer

Students may not use..

- Laptops
- Phones
- Partners

#### Prompt:

In class, we have discussed many major themes in *Topdog/Underdog* by Suzan-Lori Parks. We have also evaluated the way the characters Lincoln and Booth have developed over the course of the play.

You will write a **short essay (3 paragraphs)** where you answer the following question: **Who is topdog?** Utilize *at least one* of the major themes listed below to support your reasoning.

- Sex and masculinity
- Money equals power
- Brotherhood
- Poverty and gambling

You must support your thesis with **at least 3 citations with page numbers from the text**.

#### Checklist:

##### Paragraph 1:

- ☐ Introduce the play and the prompt.
- ☐ State who you think is topdog.
- ☐ Briefly summarize why you think this character is topdog.

##### Paragraph 2:

- ☐ Provide 3 direct quotes or summarizations with page numbers from the play that support your stance on who is topdog, utilizing at least one major theme.
- ☐ Provide explanations (reasoning) as to how that quote/summarization supports your stance on who is topdog.

##### Paragraph 3:

- ☐ Wrap up/restate thesis







