

Humanities Department News
November 14, 2016

Social Studies:

Military History will be engaging a simulation related to World War I called *Diplomacy*. The simulation is distinct from most simulations in that it involves no introduction of random chance. It starts each turn with a negotiation phase where the players spend much of their time forming and betraying alliances with other players and forming beneficial strategies. Set in Europe before the beginning of World War I, our *Diplomacy* simulation will be played by seven teams, each controlling the armed forces of a major European power. Each player aims to move his or her few starting units and defeat those of others to win possession of a majority of strategic cities and provinces marked as "supply centers" on the map; these supply centers allow players who control them to produce more units. Historically the simulation is known to have been a favorite of John F. Kennedy and Henry Kissinger who described it as his favorite in an interview published in a simulations magazine.

Students will be required to think strategically and then negotiate their way to victory over their opponents. The simulation will provide them with an opportunity to understand the mechanics of diplomacy and learn the lexicon of the diplomat.

--By Mark Yanaway

Language Arts:

English I: Freshmen discover they are heroes just for getting out of bed. By answering their Call to Adventure and then Crossing the Threshold into the Unknown World (Wamogo), they too are following the Hero's Journey archetypal pattern. Joseph Campbell, an American mythologist, brought this ancient and universal story sequence to light, labeling the steps and helping us see how each story and even each day follows them. Freshmen, through studying epic and super heroes, will be asked to connect the fantastic, awesome feats of such figures with their own. So perhaps, if they recognize that leaving their warm, safe beds is the start of that day's hero's journey, they will do so more willingly.

If you are interested in reading more about the Hero's Journey, [here's a quick breakdown of the steps.](#)

-- By Jane Smith-Vaniz