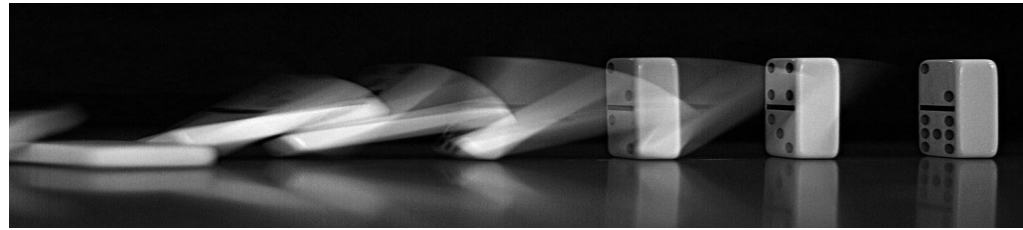**English 4**
Lesson: Thursday, April 9

Learning Target(s):

- Read an article and determine how word choice contributes to the text's overall meaning.
- Explain a word's connotation and how it impacts the tone of a text.

Bell Ringer:

In "The Tipping Point," Malcolm Gladwell discusses how the prevalence of certain social problems act similarly to diseases.

Task: Answer the following question. Choose the best answer based on your first initial reaction. You'll be able to check your answer after you read the article. Write your response in your notebook.

Which of the following describes the "tipping point?"

A.   when a small change in the treatment of a disease results in an improvement
B.   when a large change has a large impact on an epidemic
C.   when a relatively small change dramatically impacts the size of an epidemic
D.   when something dramatically changes, regardless of the cause

Learn:

→ <u>Preview</u>: Vocab terms and definitions in context

→ <u>Read</u>: <u>The Tipping Point</u>

→ <u>Analyze</u>: Choose at least 5 terms from the vocab/term list. Analyze how these words contribute to the author's main or central idea.

→ <u>Determine tone</u>: What is the tone, or author's attitude, towards social issues and how they can spread like diseases?

Preview these terms and definitions from the article.

1. **Genteel** *(adjective)* : respectable
2. **Fundamental** *(adjective)* : of central importance
3. **Equilibrium** *(noun)* : a state in which opposing forces or influences are balanced
4. **Clip** *(noun)* : a specified speed or rate of movement
5. **Juncture** *(noun)* : a particular point in events or time
6. **Eradicate** *(verb)* : to end or destroy something completely
7. **Precocious** *(adjective)* : advanced or mature in development
8. **Endemic** *(adjective)* : regularly found among particular people or in a certain area
9. **Volatile** *(adjective)* : likely to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse
10. **Implacable** *(adjective)* : unable to be appeased
11. **Reciprocal** *(adjective)* : mutually corresponding

Practice: Create a graphic organizer or chart like the one below in your notebook or on notebook paper. Choose at least 5 terms and list them on the chart. Next, determine the connotation (the emotional definition) of the word. Is it negative, positive, neutral, loaded, empathetic, bias, etc? Last, explain the tone (or author's attitude) based on how the word is used in the context of the article. An example has been provided.

Term/Word	Connotation	Tone based on context
1. volatile	loaded, negative, angry	Urgency and anxiety--the author sees crime as likely to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse unless something is done sooner than later.

Answer Key: Revisit Bell Ringer

Which of the following describes the "tipping point?"

A. when a small change in the treatment of a disease results in an improvement
B. when a large change has a large impact on an epidemic
C. when a relatively small change dramatically impacts the size of an epidemic
D. when something dramatically changes, regardless of the cause

If you want to learn more...Additional Resource:

The Tipping Point

In this video, Malcolm Gladwell further discusses his book "The Tipping Point" and how social phenomena are similar to diseases.

Discuss how Gladwell expands on the effects and prevalence of tipping points. Can you think of other examples in which something was affected by a tipping point?