**Grading for the "Seeds for Communication" Unit**

Final Project -- 45 percent

This unit is based in the concept of "project learning." An important part of your final grade will be based on your individual final project. Your project will be about something that interests you. You should use some of the scientific words and ideas that we learn together. The project explores gardening and farming, but it is also exploring recipes and nutrition of our home countries -- Puerto Rico, Jamaica, or the Philippines. You may explore another connection to your culture, or another student's culture. You will use paragraphs that you write as a group, to make your own I-movie with voice overs, so it is important to use video to document some of the experiences we have on field trips. You can also interview friends or family and include clips in your videos.

Here is how the whole unit is graded:

**Understanding and use of vocabulary in the unit (quizzes) -- 20 percent**

**Participation in Writing Exercises -- 20 percent**

**Individual Project -- 45 percent**

**Participation in Planning/Presentation of final public event 15 percent**

(There will be an organized event -- Garden Party, May 23 -- and your participation in the organization of that final event, which will be for the public, is in this part of the grade.)

**Seeds for Communication Unit -- Academic Vocabulary List**

*(Note: vocabulary words are developed as "word families" systematically whenever possible; when recycled in LEA writing-based lessons or during field trips and other experiential work, having differing word forms will enable the teacher and students to be more experimental when including key words in sentences within compositions. This should be part of the exercise when doing group writing of paragraphs. Some unusual vocabulary, below, was determined by concepts explored in specific media, such as "flip the script," or "ecolutionary" which come from Ron Finley's provocative Ted Talk, "A Guerilla Gardener in South Central L.A.")*

**Lesson 1: defiant, Councilman, Dialysis, Sustain/Sustainability/Sustainable, Pride/proud, Honor/honorable, "ecolutionary," "food desert," "flip the script"**

**Lesson 2: self-sufficient, non-profit, volunteer/ing, organic, global warming, climate/climatic, region/regional, Caribbean**

**Lesson 3: compost, rotate/rotation, species, vary/variety, fertile/fertility/fertilize, humus, nutrition/nutritious**

**Lesson 7: plant periodicity, average temperature range, plant tolerance, plant stress, hardy/hardiness zones**

**Lesson 9: Activist/activism, stakeholders, funding/fundraising, "food apartheid," affordable/affordability, access/accessible/accessibility, budget, spread-sheet.**

**Lesson 12: hydroponic, season extension, saturate/saturation, aerate/aeration, soil**

**drainage/sterile potting soil/diseases/pests/pathologies**

**Lesson 13: self-awareness, (independent) will, stimulus/response, prioritize/priorities,**

**initiative, reactive, proactive, synergy/synergic/synergize, empathy/empahize/empathic/empathically**

**Lesson 15: cuttings, grafting, root-stock, scion wood, rooting hormone, sexual and asexual plant reproduction**

**Lesson 16: "Nesting Functions", mulch/mulching, inoculate/inoculation, Fungus, Spores, Mycelia, Decompose/Decomposition, Aerobic/Anaerobic, Soil Flora and Fauna, "sweat equity"**

**Lesson 17: "Nesting Functions", mulch/mulching, inoculate/inoculation, Fungus, Spores, Mycelia, Decompose/Decomposition, Aerobic/Anaerobic, Soil Flora and Fauna, "sweat equity"**

**Lesson 18: planting distances, drip irrigation, water pressure/pressurization, conserve, water conservation, soil moisture, retain/retention**