Hello! Hope this finds you all hanging in there and being your best selves. I hope that Easter contained a few new memories for each of you.

So, onward and upward we go! The last lesson, I had asked you to read pages XVII to XXX in The Greatest Generation packet (it would be considered the introduction by Tom Brokaw. The reason I wanted you to read the intro was so that you would have an understanding of why he felt compelled to write this book (which was followed by another similar book) and because he gives a brief overview of what he learned through the process about the men and women of the time period. It should help you to understand what quality or characteristic he is trying to relay for each of the stories. I think you will find this last project interesting and humbling, maybe it will light a fire to keep our heroes at the forefront, always, regardless of whether as an individual you agree or disagree with the war. My personal belief is that not enough is learned about the fighters in war, but we spend a lot of time talking about the men who got us into war. The one who is least worthy makes textbooks, while the other becomes a word on the page and we wait until it's too late to hear their stories. The lineage for the American soldier is long, and is malleable to certain degrees, but I believe they all share certain characteristics that we all aspire to possess.

Thursday, April 16--Please read the attached "Tom Brokaw Intro."

Friday, April 17 and Monday, April 20--I will be sending out an e-mail to my seniors only (sorry, parents, I know that we could have a wonderful discussion with parental thoughts, also. And that could happen with a few of the questions--after the students have answered). There will be two questions that you will need to answer (when you answer, hit "Reply All" so that we all are seeing each others' responses. Begin your reply with Q1 for question 1 or Q2 for question 2---just so we know which question you are replying to. These are not questions that will accept an "I agree" answer--nor will I accept that. Please keep in mind that this is all we are doing--I expect you to put thought and effort into your responses. Etiquette will be used--no swearing--no calling others' ideas dumb or stupid--just no trying to start a fight (we are not in the classroom!). One objective for this assignment is to give an opinion, but to also listen to an opinion that may not align with your own (it's called civility). I expect that each question will elicit two responses from you--one is your answer to the question, and the other is to respond/discuss another student's response. You are welcome to respond to more than one other student's response, but if it is only to say "I agree"--use the thumbs up button. I foresee that there will be issues if you do not keep on top of the assignment for the day---waiting until day 12 to answer day 1's questions will result in your classmates having a major fit (because you will bring that thread back to the top. The grading works this way: Your response to the question can earn 25 points--don't answer by the due date and lose five points automatically. Your response to a classmate's response is worth five points (mainly because you are relying on your classmates to answer on time and hoping that enough do that there will be a response that you can "talk about"--if not, not fair to you if I have too many points involved in the second response). It is simple, but if you do not stay on top of it, you will bury yourself (yes, I will do all that I can to remove the dirt, but allow me to use a shovel and not need a backhoe!).

Parents, I will be posting the reading assignments and the questions on my web page beginning on April 21, so you will be aware of what needs to be done and when.

Kids, I know this could end up being frustrating for us all. One of the plans is to have a moment to go in and delete threads once everyone has answered---so, again, if you all stay on top of it, we can delete threads easily and quickly. Also, I heard in class that there is a Senior Class group text--please remind your classmates for me through that--it will keep you from posting a few memes or tiktoks, but it will be time well spent for the benefit of my class! Thank you in advance!

I will e-mail the questions, right after this! Thinking of you all, missing you all, and wishing you were in my room!

PS--thank you for the Graduation invites that I have received--hint: if you have them, you could send them back in the red packets on Tuesday--no postage needed!--and I will send out a pic of what I am doing with them in my classroom--it's nice not mean!