**PORTFOLIO:**

# An Autobiography Assignment



## “Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else,

***these pages must show.”***

— *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens

**PORTFOLIO: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

### In English 1 this year, you will be creating an Autobiography Project that you will work on in sections all year long. You will present parts of it throughout the year, and you will submit the project in its entirety for your End-of-Course Final Exam (details forthcoming). This project will showcase “You” and the skills you will acquire this year. There will be several components; some will be required, and you will have a choice for others. You will be given some time to work on the assignment(s) in class; however, some parts may require outside work. You should revise ***ALL*** assignments before rewriting them in final form. Written components MUST be typed in MLA format.

**Project Timeline:**

**Day 1:** Introduce Project Requirements and Rubric (Tuesday, August 25th)

**Day 2:** In-class Project Work Day (Wednesday, August 26th)

**Day 3:** In-class Project Work Day (Thursday, August 27th)

**Day 4:** Presentations of Title and Prologue Components (Friday, August 28th)

**Day 5: FIRST PORTION OF PROJECT DUE (Monday, August 31st)**

**Project Requirements:**

* **A TITLE PAGE--** Select a word or phrase particularly meaningful for you to serve as your title. Browse through a thesaurus, listen to music you love, think of special people and places and interests, and then decide on a title. “A Book about Me” or “My Autobiography” are poor titles because they are vague and impersonal. Illustrate the title page with the title and your MLA heading. \*Be sure to cite your source!
* **PROLOGUE--** Explain the significance of your title, making clear why it is relevant to your life in particular. Introduce yourself gracefully to your reader and capture our attention. Include a brief description of this writing project and its purposes — in your own words. (This belongs at the very beginning of the portfolio.)
* **AUTOBIOGRAPHY COMPONENTS--** In addition to the aforementioned requirements, you must complete all of the autobiography components listed below. (Other components will be added throughout the year.)

1. What’s in a Name?
2. Color Your World
3. Personal Metaphors **(Pre-AP only)**

**Autobiography Portfolio:** All components of your Autobiography Project will be completed in your shared folder in THE GOOGLE.

**Autobiography Components**

**1. What’s in a Name?:** Names are an integral part of who we are. They shape our sense of who we are. Explore your feelings about “the unity between [your]self and [your] name.” Are these the names you would have chosen for yourself? Is there a story behind your naming? Someone famous, a family member, weird initials? Does your name have symbolic meaning? Is it ethnic or historical or literary? Did your parents consider other names? In short, how do you live with your name? (½ page - 1 page typed MLA format)

**2. Color Your World:** If you were a color, what color would you be? Choose a color that best represents you - your personality, your appearance, your strengths and weaknesses. Portray your connection to this color in a creative way -- poem, collage, visual (drawing, painting). Include a 3 - 5 sentence explanation of how the color connects to you.

**3. Personal Metaphors (Pre-AP ONLY):** Make a list of metaphorical comparisons. Think, “If I were an animal, what kind of animal would I be?” For each item, write the general **LABEL** and then your specific comparison. Be realistic, be somewhat honest, and be able to explain your choices. Don’t say you are a rose if you’re really a daisy.

* 1. Animal h. Fragrance o. Season of the Year
  2. Car i. Type of Building p. Television Character
  3. Article of Clothing j. Plant q. Cartoon/Comic Character
  4. Day of the Week k. Musical Instrument r. Appliance or Machinery
  5. Food l. Geometric Shape s. Natural Phenomenon
  6. Color m. Piece of Furniture t. Word
  7. Movie n. Song

**\*\***Now go back to your list of personal metaphors. Choose **ONE** that you can extend by explaining the comparison in detail. Write a paragraph explaining the extended personal metaphor by giving four or five specific points of comparison. If you are like an alley cat, discuss four characteristics of an alley cat and explain the ways in which you have the same characteristics.

**GRADING DISCLAIMER**

The first portion of this project, which is due on August 31st, will be graded according to the following:

For English 1, each of the four components will be worth 25 points each. For Pre-AP, each of the five components will be worth 20 points each.

Each component will be graded on a full, half, or no credit basis. That means you either fulfilled requirements, you attempted to fulfill the requirements, or you did not make an obvious attempt to fulfill the requirements.