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| **8th Grade LA PORTFOLIO 2016**  |

During the last 6 weeks of your 8th grade career, you will be creating a Portfolio—a book that reflects you at this time in your life. Think carefully about how you will create your book to make it completely and individually *yours*. A complete Portfolio is decorated with artwork, photos, borders, colored paper, etc. to create a scrapbook concept. You may include personal photographs, etc., as your book will be graded and returned before summer vacation.

Use the provided calendar and grading sheet to keep track of your progress. Each assignment has a due date to help you stay organized and ensure you complete your Portfolio by Tuesday, June 7th. **NO PORTFOLIOS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 7TH**. Follow the Quality Work criteria listed below.

Have fun with your Portfolio! Create a finished product you are proud of now and will be for many years to come. The Portfolio will be your connection with your present self and help you remember the person you are today.

**QUALITY WORK:**

* Neatness
* All writing in ink or typed
* Directions for each assignment followed
* Complete
* Colorful and Illustrated
* Expresses YOU
* Conventions
* Follow Due Dates

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**1: I Believe Essay**

*I Believe Essay*: What beliefs or values are important to you? Consider what you have learned in your family and elsewhere regarding character, morals, manners, etc. In this personal essay, you will support a thesis with anecdotes and experiences that define you at this time of life. This writing piece will be particularly interesting to read when you are older, as many beliefs held by teenagers carry into adulthood.

**Length**: 3-5 Paragraphs

**2: Coat of Arms**

*History of Coat of Arms: Coats of arms had their greatest day in England in the 1300’s. Heralds, who wore the coats of arms, were organized into four major colleges or orders and were concerned with any of the ceremonies of state, like royal funerals or coronations. They were the official messengers of kings and read the royal proclamations. They directed combats of honor. But most important, they kept records of noble families and granted coats of arms and crests to worthy persons—supposedly noble gentlemen. What qualities made one man a gentleman and the next man not were vague, as some coats of arms were received by bribery.*

*The coat of arms became the symbol of a gentleman, a family tradition handed down from father to son. Emblazoned on a shield, it became an easy way to identify men fighting in armor. If the son of a gentleman married the daughter of a gentleman, both family coats of arms could be displayed on a new shield by dividing it. Thus, a man whose coat of arms was many times divided obviously came from a long line of noble families. Today, coats of arms are reminders of a picturesque heritage and a colorful part of pageantry.*

Use a blank sheet of paper that fits in your Portfolio. Your coat of arms can be designed by you, or you may use a pattern from your teacher. Your coat of arms will contain symbols of you. They may be symbolic of any aspect of you (your beliefs, what is important to you, your talents, etc.).

**Requirements**: at least 3 picture symbols, a motto, and at least two colors. Then, write *three paragraphs* explaining your coat of arms. Paragraph 1: Symbols and why they represent you. Paragraph 2: Colors and why they represent you. Paragraph 3: Why you chose your motto and what it means.

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| **COLOR**Red:Orange:Yellow:Green:Blue:Purple:Pink:Brown:Black:Grey:Silver:Gold:White: | **ASSOCIATION**Passion, anger, heat, blood, boldnessEnergy, enthusiasmEnergy, cheerfulness, cowardiceInexperience, freshness, jealousy, peace, natureLoyalty, reason, calm, cool/cold, truthRoyalty, nobility, mystery, mourningInnocence, youthEarthiness, strength, practicality, nature, stableMystery, secretive, death, evil, mourningReason, compromise, calmnessPurityWealth, royaltyWisdom, purity, holiness, cleanliness, peace | **WAYS TO DIVIDE A SHIELD**Impaling:http://mcguinnessfamily.org/images/DuLong-Impaled-McGuinness.gifDividing in half vertically with a family emblem on each side.Halving:http://www.ngw.nl/heraldrywiki/images/1/1a/Clackmannanshire.jpgDividing horizontally with an emblem on top and bottom halves. Quartering:https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSFynIheJYKlx2PR_RIqnjSQzKdNjgirfzipGycCm5Dln0nuTEjaQDividing both ways with emblems in opposite corners. |

**3 & 4: Autobiographies (choose TWO)**

Autobiographies must be in ink or typed. Neatness, clarity, completeness, and conventions count. Use complete sentences and paragraphs to explain, describe, or tell about something. Remember that details are the things memories are made of. Recall what you have learned about writing narrative, descriptive, and expository compositions. Use figurative language, details, and descriptions. Think of these as mini-essays. Be sure each paper has an appropriate title and **record the titles on your grading** sheet. (“Autobiography #14” is ***NOT*** an appropriate title).

**Length**: 5 Paragraph Minimum

Possible Autobiography Topics – REMEMBER: ***PICK TWO***

1. Describe a time of great sadness or happiness. You can write about each separately or together as one autobiography.
2. Tell about a person who has had a tremendous impact or influence on your life—good or bad.
3. Tell about an enjoyable thing your family does together—family vacation, tradition, etc.
4. Describe how your life might change if there was no TV, electronic games, DVDs, cell phones, or computers!
5. Write about your best friend(s). Tell how you met, what you do together, why you like each other.
6. Tell about an important learning experience you have had. Describe who helped you learn, the steps it took, when/where/why/how you learned. Possibilities include learning to:
	* ride a bicycle.
	* play a favorite board game.
	* play a sport.
	* play a musical instrument, sing, or dance.
	* use manners.
	* read.
7. Tell about a serious accident or illness you have had.
8. Tell about your pets—past, present, or all.
9. Discuss what music is important to you—bands, composers, songs—and why.
10. Discuss your church/religion/beliefs and why it is important to you.
11. Recall a trip you have taken. Use details to describe what made the trip so great, or so bad.
12. Discuss your favorite movie/TV show. Briefly tell about the plot and characters and why you like it.
13. Identify one or more people you look up to and would like to be like. Tell why you look up to them.
14. Describe something at which you excel. Tell how you learned to do it and why it is important to you.
15. Research your first and/or last name. Then, write about what your name means and how you feel about it. Talk to your family and include family stories about how/why you received your name.
16. What are your dreams or goals for your future? Describe what you would like to do, anything special you want to accomplish, and what you think you will have to do in order to fulfill these dreams.

**5: Book Review**

Write a book review about your favorite book you have read this year. Identify the title and author—*with correct spelling*. Include support for your choice: effective settings, plausible conflict, engaging characters, etc. Identify the theme(s) of the novel. (May NOT be a graphic novel). Remember, theme is not one word, but rather a sentence that reveals the author’s observations or insights about life or human behavior.

**Length**: 3-5 paragraphs.

**6: Early Bird or Night Owl?**

Think about the qualities embodied in each pair of the listed items. For each pair, identify the one in the pair that best fits your personality/preferences. **List your choices in complete sentences**. Then, select **ONE** sentence from your list to **write a paragraph** explaining how you are like one and not the other.

**Length:** 10 sentences + 1 paragraph

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| Are you more…1. like fast food or a gourmet meal?
2. positive or negative?
3. athlete or mathlete?
4. present or future?
5. like an early bird or a night owl?
 | 1. like tennis shoes or boots?
2. like a log cabin or a castle?
3. like a team member or a dedicated fan?
4. like a text message or a phone call?
5. like a cat or a dog?
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**7: Time Capsule**

Sometimes, when a new building is erected or an important event occurs, a time capsule (a container with mementos of the time or event) is buried. After a specified number of years, it is dug up to look back and see what life was like and how it has changed. Create a time capsule which shows you as you are now. Identify 8-12 items to include in your time capsule and write a paragraph for **EACH** item. Tell why each item is important to you and what each item says about you. (You do not actually need to collect the items and make a physical time capsule, just write about it). Include pictures/sketches of each item.

**Length**: 8-12 paragraphs.

**8: Collage**

A collage is a visual created by cutting and pasting (gluing) a variety of pictures and images together. These pictures should be chosen because they represent some important features about you and should be artistically arranged on the paper—not stuck on haphazardly (without planning or thought). You may use pictures from magazines, photographs, your own drawings, or any combination. It should reflect *you*.

**Requirements**: contains **no words**; covers 100% of your page—no blank space!

**9: Pick ONE Option**

**Option A - Timeline**

Make a timeline of your future. Draw a line down or across a blank sheet of paper. Label one end with the year of your birth, and the other end 80 years later. Divide your timeline into ten-year segments, labeled by year. Then, mark the dates of significant events you have already experienced. Next, mark future important dates you expect to experience: your first job, high school and/or college graduation, starting your career/dream job, marriage, births of children, occupation changes, moving, retirement, travel, etc. Keep in mind what kind of legacy you hope to leave behind, how will this be reflected in your timeline?

**Requirements**: 15-20 events; at least 10 events must be illustrated with drawings/pictures.

**Option B – Photograph**

Include photographs of you, your family, friends, pets, places you have traveled, and/or significant events in your life. For each photograph, **write a caption** identifying who/what is in the picture. These may be scattered throughout your book—OR—grouped together in a one location. Be sure to ask before taking pictures from home—***they will be returned to you***.

**Option C – Artifact**

This may be that math paper you received an “A” on; or perhaps an essay in English that you are proud of. It may be your first paycheck, a note from a special person, ticket stubs from a great concert or film, or an award/certificate you earned. Include the artifact, (or a copy, picture, or sketch of it).

**Requirements**: 2 paragraph minimum identifying what the artifact represents and why it is meaningful to you.

**Option D – Historical Era Essay**

You may write this essay in a narrative or expository form. Choose an era in history in which you think you would have fit comfortably or would have found exciting. You will need to do some research to make sure your details are accurate. Identify three events in which you would like to have participated and/or the lifestyle which attracts you. Then, describe the position in society you would like to have had. Include references to the era such as clothing styles, art, inventions, important dates, and/or music, etc.

**Length**: 5 paragraphs.