

# Biography Project: Personal Portfolio

You will write some assignments in class; others will be homework; you will turn some in for comment, and share others in peer groups. You should revise *ALL* assignments before submitting your final portfolio. Most assignments will be approximately a page long.

This Portfolio includes components that will count for your 10% Social Studies and your 10% Language Arts grades as well.

✓ **PROFESSIONAL BINDING** -- Plan ahead and budget time to have your portfolio bound professionally. You may use the spiral binding machine and materials available in class, but NOT on the day the portfolio is due.

✓ **A COVER** -- Your cover must be a visual representation of your person – words, phrases, logos, photographs, artwork, quotations – whatever will let your person speak visually. The name should be on there somewhere. Yes, this is a collage. Use a gluestick or rubber cement or create it digitally.

- ✓ Every assignment should be:
- a thoughtful response to the assigned topic
  - revised as necessary
  - neatly and legibly written or typed
  - in order according to these assignment directions
  - typed
  - titled on the top line
  - numbered by assignment (not page) in the upper right corner
  - corrected using proofreading symbols or correction fluid

**DONENESS** counts! But your writing should also demonstrate appropriate word usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation

# Portfolio Requirements

**An Introduction --** Explain the significance of your person, making clear why this person was worthy of being chosen for your Biography Project. Focus on the contributions your person has made. (10%)

1. **Personal Alphabet:** Browse through a dictionary, looking for adjectives to describe your person. Know the meaning of the words you select and be able to explain how each word you've chosen fits your person. Choose at least **ONE** adjective for each letter of the alphabet. Be sure you choose the adjective form of words. For example, "excite" is a verb and "excitable" is an adjective. "Exciting" is a participle so it can be used as an adjective...**BUT** "excitable" and "exciting" mean very different things.

2. **Personal Metaphors:** Make a list of metaphorical comparisons. Think, "If my person were an animal, what kind of animal would my person be?" For each item, write the general **LABEL** and then the specific comparison. Explain each choice in a sentence or two.

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Animal              | 11. Musical Instrument         |
| 2. Car                 | 12. Geometric Shape            |
| 3. Article of Clothing | 13. Piece of Furniture         |
| 4. Day of the Week     | 14. Song                       |
| 5. Food                | 15. Season of the Year         |
| 6. Color               | 16. Television Character       |
| 7. Movie               | 17. Cartoon or Comic Character |
| 8. Fragrance           | 18. Appliance or Machinery     |
| 9. Type of Building    | 19. Natural Phenomenon         |
| 10. Plant              | 20. Word                       |

2. **Likes / Dislikes List:** Make **TWO** columns, one titled "Likes," the other "Dislikes," and list from **TEN** to **FIFTEEN** specific items in each column.

5. **Personal Symbol:** Write about an object that has special symbolic meaning for your person. It might be a gift from someone your person loved, an award of which your person is proud, a souvenir from a place important to your person, a childhood toy your person treasured, a family photograph, whatever. Describe the object, appealing to the senses as appropriate and giving specific details. Also explain what it symbolizes for your person.

6. **These Words Belong to Me:** Make a list of words which have special power and magic for your person. List and define at least **TEN** words. For each word, explain why this particular word belongs to your person. Or perhaps give me a hint hidden in a question?

7. **In Other Words:** Try expressing your person through someone else's words. Select at least ten "Quotable Quotes" which express your person's philosophy of life. Choose quotations which represent your person's thought on several aspects of life – not only love, but also faith, success, integrity, character, friendship, etc. List the **TEN** you have selected, including **ATTRIBUTION** (who said it).

8. **The Perfect Present:** You have the ability to select the perfect present for your person. It's something your person has always wanted, something your person has secretly yearned for. It's not a black Trans-Am or designer jeans because there's a catch -- the gift is intangible, or abstract. This means that you cannot perceive it with the five senses. For example, your person might want patience, self-confidence, intuition. Tell me what the gift is, why it's the perfect gift, why your person needs it, and how it will affect your person's life.

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### Portfolio Requirements

Assignment	A	B	C	D/F
<b>Personal Alphabet (10)</b>	26 adjectives show thoughtful insight into personality	26 adjectives are adequate and accurate, if somewhat predictable	26 adjectives are dull and/or superficial	Less than 26, not adjectives, and/or inaccurate
<b>Personal Metaphors (10)</b>	20 metaphors show careful personality analysis	20 metaphors are relevant, though a bit shallow	20 metaphors are one-dimensional and/or	Less than 20, not metaphors, and/or inaccurate
<b>Likes/Dislikes (10)</b>	2 columns of 10-15 Likes/Dislikes show deeper understanding	2 columns of 10-15 Likes/Dislikes are adequate and accurate	2 columns of 10-15 Likes/Dislikes are simple and predictable	Less than 10-15 Likes/Dislikes; superficial and/or inaccurate
<b>Personal Symbol (10)</b>	Choice of symbol shows insight; sensory description & explanation show relevance	Choice of symbol is believable; description and explanation are acceptable	Choice of symbol is obvious; description and explanation are limited.	Choice of symbol is not believable and/or description and explanation are unacceptable.
<b>These Words Belong to Me (10)</b>	10 words show insight and are well-defined. Explanations	10 words are adequate and defined accurately	10 words are dull & predictable and definition are adequate	Less than 10 words and/or definitions and choices are inaccurate
<b>In Other Words (10)</b>	Selection of quotes shows breadth and depth of understanding	Selection of quotes shows adequate understanding	Selection of quotes shows limited understanding	Selection of quotes shows no understanding
<b>The Perfect Present (10)</b>	Well-chosen and clearly supported by evidence cited	Well-chosen and somewhat supported by evidence cited.	Adequately chosen but poorly supported by evidence cited	Poorly chosen and/or unsupported by evidence cited
<b>Knowledge (10)</b>	<i>Broad, deep contextual knowledge of lifespan</i>	<i>Adequate knowledge of major life events, but little depth</i>	<i>Superficial knowledge of well-known events</i>	<i>Inaccurate or focused on limited events and accomplishments.</i>
<b>Understanding (10)</b>	<i>Grounded and insightful</i>	<i>Adequate and accurate</i>	<i>Predictable and superficial</i>	<i>Inaccurate and/or shallow</i>
<b>Serendipity (10)</b> - savoir faire, that certain something we all recognize when we see it.				

### Personal Metaphors

- |                        |                     |                        |                                |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Animal              | 6. Color            | 11. Musical Instrument | 16. Television Character       |
| 2. Car                 | 7. Movie            | 12. Geometric Shape    | 17. Cartoon or Comic Character |
| 3. Article of Clothing | 8. Fragrance        | 13. Piece of Furniture | 18. Appliance or Machinery     |
| 4. Day of the Week     | 9. Type of Building | 14. Song               | 19. Natural Phenomenon         |
| 5. Food                | 10. Plant           | 15. Season of the Year | 20. Word                       |

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ **out of 100 points**