Guidelines for Gathering Artifacts for the Big Question

One expectation of Honors English in Loudoun County is that students are capable of independent inquiry. In LCPS, students will gather materials outside of class that deal with their personally-chosen Big Question. This material should be drawn from the larger world of ideas and should reflect a particular student’s inquisitive spirit.

Here is a list of possible materials you might gather in your folder:

1. A poem
2. An article from a newspaper or magazine
3. An independent short story (must provide a one page, typed summary of the story)
4. A scene from a television show or film (must provide a one page, typed summary of the show or film)
5. An independent novel (must provide a one page, typed summary of the novel)
6. A song (limit one)
7. An interview of a friend or family member (must provide a transcript of the questions and answers, limit one)
8. A famous speech from a historical figure (must provide a copy of the speech)

While we encourage you to think broadly as you decide what to include in your portfolio, we do ask that the material be up to certain standards. The material that you choose should be thought-provoking. Your artifacts should:

1. Cause you to think and reflect long after you have read/viewed the material.
2. Deal with the subject of your Big Question in an interesting and unique way.
3. Lead you to change or modify, even in a small way, your thinking about the subject. Please realize that this does not mean that you agree with the material. Sometimes the things that make us form the strongest opinions about something are the things with which we most disagree.
4. Be a published work (see “Acceptable Search Databases to Find Artifacts” for additional information)

You will independently gather a minimum of two artifacts per quarter. You are also required to gather a variety of types of artifacts. You are allowed a maximum of two artifacts from each type listed above (unless otherwise indicated above).
Acceptable Search Databases to Find Artifacts
English 9 Honors

In an effort to prevent you from conducting a superficial search (using Google, Bing, or any other generic, all-encompassing search database), you should use the following databases to find appropriate artifacts. On each of these websites, you will find reputable, published work.

**Poetry Artifacts**
The following websites are considered credible databases to find published poetry. You may also choose to peruse collected works and anthologies (found in the library) for acceptable poetry.

- Poets.org
- Bartelby.com
- [http://www.onlinecolleges.net/2009/10/05/100-great-web-sites-for-poetry-lovers/](http://www.onlinecolleges.net/2009/10/05/100-great-web-sites-for-poetry-lovers/)

**Newspaper & Magazine Artifacts**
The following publishers are examples of credible news and magazine sources. You may choose to peruse these publishers’ works online or in printed form.

- *The Washington Post*
- *The New York Times*
- *Time*
- *Newsweek*
- CNN.com
- BBC.com

Please keep in mind that these lists are not exhaustive. If you find a work from another source that you believe is credible, check with your teacher to verify credibility before selecting the artifact.
Works Cited Information

TEMPLATE FOR PRINT SOURCES:

**Book**

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.


**Article in a Reference Book (Encyclopedia, Dictionary, etc.)**


**Journal Article**


**Article in a Magazine**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.


**Article in a Newspaper**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.


**Work in an Anthology (Textbook, etc.)**

Author of Work. *Title of Work* (italicize or quotation marks). *Title of Anthology*. Editor. City of Publication: Publisher, Year Published. Pages. Medium of Publication.

TEMPLATE FOR WEB SOURCES:

**Website**

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.


**Work (Article, Poem, Speech, etc) on a Page of a Website**

Author of Work. Title of the Work. *Website Title*. Publisher, Date Created. Medium of Publication. Date of access.


**Online Database**


TEMPLATE FOR OTHER MEDIA SOURCES:

**Television Show**

“Title of Episode.” *Title of the Program or Series*. Name of Network. Call Letters, City of the Local Station, Broadcast Date. Medium of Reception.


**Interview Conducted by the Researcher (You! 😊)**

Name of Person Interviewed. Personal Interview. Date of Interview.


**Song**

Artist’s Name. “Title of Song.” *Title of Album*. Manufacturer, Year of Issue. Medium of Publication (CD, MP3).


**Abbreviations for Sources without Stated Publication Information or Pagination**

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