

8th Grade Portfolio

You have entered your last quarter as an 8th grader here at Great Neck South Middle School. Next month, you will bravely cross the divide between middle school and high school. Now is the time to sum up your year in English 8 both academically and emotionally.

I pose to you two questions:

1. *What* do you want to remember?
2. *How* do you want to be remembered?

This portfolio project should make you thumb through the previous pieces of writing you have created as well as the three years of memories formed. You will be choosing past pieces to revise, extend, and build upon to generate new and improved work. You will re-examine your work with older and wiser eyes. Remember, a piece of writing is never truly finished; there are always revisions to be made!

This portfolio also requires some brand new writing from you. Be reflective...truly think about what you want to express to the reader before writing. What can you include in this portfolio that genuinely conveys the writing skills, life experiences, and maturity you have come to acquire throughout your 8th grade?

DUE DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 7

REQUIREMENTS:

Each component must appear on a separate piece of paper. Font must be **no larger** than size 14 and all of the (non-creative) writing should be set at a space and a half. Please follow the order listed below when compiling your project and be conscious of properly numbering pages.

COVER PAGE

Project title: A Six-Word Memoir pertaining to your 8th grade experience

Then:

- Your name
- Class period
- Due date
- Illustration

SOMETHING OLD – A REVISION

Choose a piece of English 8 writing that you could drastically improve using the skills and strategies you have learned throughout 8th grade.

- * Revisions must be significant and should demonstrate growth.
- * You will submit both the original and revised copies.
- * Revisions must be annotated for the reader.
- * Include an explanation of the revisions that details the thinking behind the revisions.

SOMETHING NEW – ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Create a complete picture of who you are as an English learner and student.

- * Share thoughts about the books you have read during 8th grade.
- * Describe the moments during which you learned something new about reading and writing.
- * Explain how you have developed as an English student during the 8th grade.

SOMETHING BORROWED – “CREATED ELSEWHERE”

Select something you created for another class this year that you are proud of and would like to share.

- * Prepare a written reflection about why you selected this piece.
- * This can be something “off beat” such as art you drew or music you composed/played or a photo you took as long as there’s a written reflection included.

SOMETHING (OUT OF THE) BLUE

Wow us with something out of the blue. What else can you share about yourself? Choose from the questions below:

A.) What have you undertaken or done on your own in the last year or two that has nothing to do with academic work? (Northwestern)

B.) If you were to look back on your middle school years, what advice would you give to someone beginning his/her middle school career? (Simmons)

C.) It has been said [Andy Warhol] that "in the future everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes." Describe your fifteen minutes. (New York University)

D.) You've just written a 300-page autobiography. Send us page 217. (University of Pennsylvania)

E.) Tell us how a particular book, play, film, piece of music, dance performance, scientific theory or experiment or work of art has influenced you. If you choose a novel, film or play, assume we know the plot. (Notre Dame/93)

F.) Tell one story about yourself that would best provide us, either directly or indirectly, with an insight into the kind of person you are. For example, the story can simply relate a personal experience, or a humorous anecdote; it can tell about an especially significant academic encounter or about an unusual test of character. The possibilities are unlimited (well, almost so). You choose. Just relax and write it. (Princeton)

G.) Describe your most important academic accomplishment or intellectual experience to date. We don't want to know about test scores or course grades, rather we want to know about your creativity, your willingness to take intellectual risks or your affinity for scholarly endeavors. (MIT)

Above topics selected from

<http://www.hpregonal.org/departments/english/mhassenplug/100%20topics.html>

TO SUM IT ALL UP

A perfected version of the graduation speech.

SECTION DIVIDERS

Divide each of the sections with quotes you enjoy from books, poems, song lyrics, etc. Decorate the dividers however you'd like (photos, drawings, etc.)

ADDITIONAL SELF-SELECT REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Self-select students MUST complete letter G in the "Something Blue" section AS WELL AS **one** other question of their choice.
- 2) On the back pages of the section dividers, you must write a one-paragraph explanation of why the quote you have selected is significant, meaningful or symbolic. Be sure to address your personal connection with the quote.