

What's Important to You?

Standards Covered:

SWBAT create/identify a set of guiding personal values

Task:

As we've discussed in class, the main reason epics like *The Odyssey* were written, told, and passed down was to share beliefs, explain the mysteries of life, and teach moral or ethical lessons. To echo this, I want you to think about what is important to you, what drives you, what motivates your choices and actions? This will become your personal philosophy. As you grow up and face more difficult and important decisions, it's crucial to know what's important to you and what your guiding principles are.

To begin, I want you to create a list of what's important to you. Try to think of at least 5-7 different, distinct things. For example, avoid writing both "sports" and "baseball" or "reading" and "books"; try to pick one or the other. Then, for each thing on your list, write a brief explanation of why that is important to you. Think about what you may have learned from it/them, what it (or he/she) influences you to do, and what it (he/she) means to you.

Here is an example of what that may look like:

1. Animals/pets

Animals/pets are important to me because I've always had pets. In fact, until the time I was 16 I wanted to be a veterinarian. Animals have taught me about boundaries, joy, how to care for something besides myself, and unconditional love. Words can't describe the feeling when your cat or dog snuggles next to you and places his head in your lap. My cat and dog are both rescues and I can't imagine my life without them.

Criteria	Weight	Beginning	Developing	Proficiency	Mastery
List of Important Values	X 1	0-2 distinct things listed		3-4 things distinct listed	5-7 distinct things listed
Explanation	X 2	Explanations were missing for some of the values OR the all of the explanations were generic or vague	A specific and clear explanation was given for some of the values; more than two were generic or vague	A specific and clear explanation was given for most of the values; one or two may be generic or vague	A specific and clear explanation was given for each value; it's clear why it's important to you

