Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_            Period \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Symbolism Project

While we cannot always control our circumstances, we can choose how we respond to them and how we will let them shape who we are.  In this class, we will read about a variety of characters and real people thrust into difficult situations.  The choices that they make in response to “the night that covers” them shape the identities of these individuals and are a testament to human potential and resiliency.

To begin this course, we will start our examination of identity with ourselves.  First, we will represent who we believe we currently are.  Then we will, as “captains of our souls,” represent who we would like to become in the future.

The assignment:

Using the examples as your guide, you will create a visual representation of who you currently are and who you would like to be in the future.  You can choose the collage method and fill your shape with objects that symbolize your characteristics, or you can sketch in color following the same guidelines.

Be sure to include internal characteristics. This is not simply about what career/life you would like to have in the future; it’s about what kind of person you’d like to be. Use the examples and the character trait handout to guide you.

* At least 6 objects/images on each side
* Each object/image should have a label next to it to identifying it

Scoring guide:

Minimum number of objects/images present        5    4    3    2     1   0

Quality labels provided                        5    4    3    2     1   0

Internal characteristics included                       5 4 3    2     1   0

Overall quality                            5    4    3    2     1   0

Assignment Part 2:  Turn your visual representation into two paragraphs.  Your first paragraph will explain the lefthand side, and the second paragraph will explain the righthand side.  The second paragraph will need to include at least one sentence explaining how you plan to achieve the future characteristics or why they are important to you.  Use the model paragraphs as your guide.

Paragraph 1- What I am

* Topic sentence
* Explanation of object/image 1
* Explanation of object/image 2
* Repeat for minimum of 6 objects/images total

Paragraph 2- What I want to be

* Topic sentence
* Explanation of object/image 1
* How/Why
* Explanation of object/image 2
* How/Why
* Repeat for minimum of 6 objects/images total
* Concluding sentence

Check spelling and sentence structure carefully.  Avoid sentence fragments and run-ons.