

Self-Portrait or Personal Symbol Piece

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will create a piece that represents themselves, either through a self-portrait or a collection of personal symbols, using proportion and composition skills.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Drawing paper
- pencil
- eraser
- colored pencils, markers, or paint
- a mirror (optional, if doing a realistic self-portrait)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose your approach: a realistic/stylized self-portrait (using a mirror or photo for reference) OR a 'personal symbol' composition (a collage of objects, shapes, and colors that represent who you are).
2. If doing a self-portrait: lightly sketch basic facial proportion guidelines (eye line at the middle of the head, etc.) before drawing features. If doing symbols: brainstorm and sketch 5-6 objects/symbols that represent your interests, personality, or identity.
3. Complete your pencil sketch, arranging all elements into one balanced composition on the page.
4. Add color and final details using your chosen media, connecting the piece to your portfolio theme where possible.
5. Write a short list on the back explaining the meaning behind at least 3 choices you made (a symbol, a color choice, an expression, etc.).

QUESTIONS

1. Did you create a realistic self-portrait or a personal symbol piece? Why did you choose that approach?
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2. Choose one specific element in your piece (a symbol, color, or facial expression) and explain what it represents about you.
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3. If you drew a self-portrait, what proportion guideline did you use to help place the facial features correctly? If you made a symbol piece, how did you decide where to place each symbol in your composition?

4. How does this piece connect to your overall portfolio theme?
