

Bryan  
Portfolio for Writing 6th period  
Winston Campus Junior High 2015-16

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## Letter

Dear Family, Teachers, friends, and Mr. Warren,

I am writing this letter as there is about thirty-five days of school left, and I constantly wonder how much I have changed since the start of the school the year, or if I have even changed at all. As school began, I came with the mindset that I was going to accomplish a lot. Yes, I was pretty nervous, but I gained confidence quickly. I also learned that being a 7th grader means being younger than the 8th graders (obviously); this leaves us the choice of following their lead or not. In this portfolio you will find evidence of my learning through artifacts as well as a few writing pieces to extend my learning.

The classes I took in 7th grade are the following: Computer Skills/GTT, Algebra, French, PE, Writing, Reading, History, and last but not least, Science. There were several enjoyable moments throughout the year. First, in French class, I loved learning about the Mardi Gras celebration and the traditions behind it. We learned about the customs, such as the food, and where it is a major celebration. Then in GTT, I learned about measurements in both metric and English units. It was memorable because we then designed "skimmers" which are pictured in the GTT part of my portfolio.

The artifacts I have selected are: Pythagorean Theorem worksheet for math, "In the Swamp" essay for History, Biome Poster for science, Poem Portfolio for reading, Robot essay for Writing, my dance video for PE, my skimmer for GTT, and last but not least, my "L'annee de Gerard" book for French. I selected most of these artifacts because they demonstrate my learning on several unique topics that might have not been familiar to me, thus demonstrating that I can stretch beyond my comfort zone. For example, the Pythagorean Theorem worksheet, which was a lesson that was very unique and unfamiliar to me.

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Student:
**Ramos, Bryan Alexis**
Year: 1516 - 2015-16 School Year
Winston Campus Junior High, Grade 07, 1516 School Year

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School	Per	Term	Subject	Title	Teacher	Prog-1	Term-1	Prog-2	Term-2	Sem-1	Prog-3	Term-3	Prog-4	Term-4	Sem-2
WCJH	1	S1	J0027003-01	Computer Skills	Pozucek P	98% A	99% A	99% A	99% A						<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	1	S2	J7023011-01	GTT DESIGN/MODELING 7	Pozucek P						95% A	97% A	100% A	99% A	<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	2	Y	J7013301-01	ALGEBRA 7	Palmer P	67% D+	67% D+	78% C+	77% C+		85% B	80% B-	78% C+	83% B-	<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	3	Y	J0026001-02	FRENCH I	Patkunas S	98% A	94% A	97% A	97% A		93% A-	94% A	98% A	98% A	<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	4	Y	J7020001-03	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Smrz N	95% A	95% A	100% A	99% A		97% A	98% A	97% A	98% A	<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	5	Y	J9107-01	LUNCH 7	Staff S										<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	6	Y	J7012001-11	WRITING 7	Donovan S	100% A	96% A	100% A	100% A		100% A	100% A	100% A	100% A	<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	7	Y	J7011051-01	READING 7	Donovan S	100% A	96% A	100% A	98% A		100% A	91% A-	100% A	100% A	<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	8	Y	J7017001-12	HISTORY 7	Burns-wojtalewicz K	90% A-	95% A	97% A	96% A		97% A	97% A	97% A	90% A-	<a href="#">Detail</a>
WCJH	9	Y	J7014001-12	SCIENCE 7	Dalton E	101% A+	98% A	95% A	98% A		92% A-	93% A-	87% B+	92% A-	<a href="#">Detail</a>

Now moving, on these are my topics for my new writing pieces down below: Argument for PE/health on "Should the Government ban cigarettes?", French informational on "What is Mardi Gras and its History?", Poem for History about the Battle of the Alamo, and a narrative for Science called "The Duplicate City". I selected the argument about cigarettes for PE because I can't relate very easily to the topic, but I feel like people around the world need to be informed about the hazards of smoking. Next, I chose to make my informational on Mardi Gras because we learned about it in French, but I really wanted to go deeper into the history of such a grand celebration. Thirdly, I made my poem about the Battle at the Alamo because I was really drawn in by the heroism and sacrifice that all the soldiers made in an effort for independence. Lastly, I made my narrative related to the genes lesson we learned in science, because I learned in my writing class that people were designing their own babies, and I was able to connect it to science.

This year has been spectacular so far, and I'm really looking ahead to 8th grade. I hope of staying in touch with my 7th grade teachers, participating in the Winston soccer team again, and working my very hardest just like I did this year. I also want to make Winston better by acting as a leader or role model for the new 7th graders, instead of intimidating them and not leading them. I want to improve my academic ability and succeed, all while I have fun and learn both academics and morals. I want to thank all my teachers, staff members, principal and vice principal, classmates, and overall, the whole school for a great year as a 7th grader.

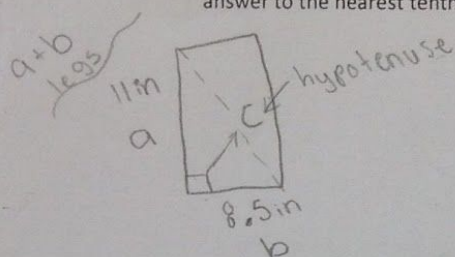
Thank you,  
Bryan Ramos

#### A) Math

My teacher for math is Mrs. Palmer, and she teaches me 7th grade Algebra. One lesson that I learned that was memorable was the "Pythagorean Theorem." This lesson was pretty recent at this time, and an artifact that demonstrated my learning is this worksheet of word problems that we started on the day of the lesson. Since this goes along with many other lessons it was absolutely necessary to know this lesson.

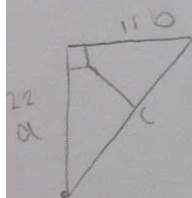
## Lesson 11.4 – Apply the Pythagorean Theorem and Its Converse

1. A sheet of paper is 8.5 inches by 11 inches. How long is the diagonal of the paper? Round your answer to the nearest tenth of an inch.



$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\ 11^2 + 8.5^2 &= c^2 \\ 121 + 72.25 &= c^2 \\ \sqrt{193.25} &= \sqrt{c^2} \\ 13.9 &= c \end{aligned}$$

2. Tina drives due north for 22 miles and then east for 11 miles. How far is Tina from her starting point? Round your answer to the nearest tenth if necessary.



$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\ 22^2 + 11^2 &= c^2 \\ 484 + 121 &= c^2 \\ \sqrt{605} &= \sqrt{c^2} \\ 24.6 &= c \end{aligned}$$

24.6 mi

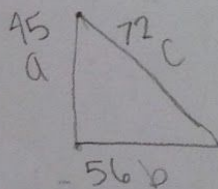
3. Find the perimeter of a right triangle if the legs measure 15 inches and 8 inches.

$$\begin{aligned} 15^2 + 8^2 &= c^2 \\ 225 + 64 &= c^2 \\ \sqrt{289} &= \sqrt{c^2} \\ 17 &= c \end{aligned}$$

17 in

$p = 40$  in

4. Sally measures the distances between three cities on a map. The distances between the three cities are 45 miles, 56 miles, and 72 miles. Do the positions of the three cities form a right triangle?

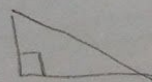


$$\begin{aligned} 42^2 + 56^2 &= 72^2 \\ 1764 + 3136 &= 5184 \\ 4900 &= 5184 \end{aligned}$$

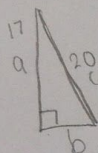
X no

5. Tell whether the triangle with the given side lengths is a right triangle. 11, 60, 61

$$\begin{aligned} 11^2 + 60^2 &= 61^2 \\ 121 + 3600 &= 61^2 = 6721 \quad \checkmark \text{ yes} \\ 121 + 3600 &= 6721 \end{aligned}$$

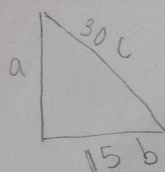


6. A 20 foot ladder leaning against a wall is used to reach a window that is 17 feet above the ground. How far from the wall is the bottom of the ladder? Round to the nearest tenth of a foot.



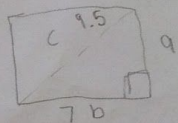
$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\ 17^2 + b^2 &= 20^2 \\ 289 + b^2 &= 400 \\ -289 &-289 \\ b^2 &= 111 \\ b &= \sqrt{111} = 10.5 \text{ ft} \end{aligned}$$

7. A wire 30 feet long is stretched from the top of a flagpole to the ground at a point 15 feet from the base of the pole. How high is the flagpole? Round to the nearest tenth if necessary.



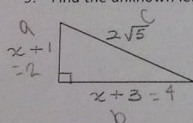
$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + 15^2 &= 30^2 \\ a^2 + 225 &= 900 \\ a^2 &= \sqrt{675} \\ &= 26 \text{ ft} \end{aligned}$$

8. A television screen is 7 inches wide, and its diagonal measure 9.5 inches. Find the height of the screen. Round to the nearest tenth if necessary.



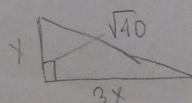
$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + 7^2 &= 9.5^2 \\ a^2 + 49 &= 90.25 \\ a^2 &= \sqrt{41.25} \\ a &= 6.4 \end{aligned}$$

9. Find the unknown lengths.



$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\ (x+1)^2 + (x+3)^2 &= (2\sqrt{5})^2 \\ (x+1)(x+1) + (x+3)(x+3) &= (2\sqrt{5})^2 \\ x^2 + 2x + 1 + x^2 + 6x + 9 &= 4 \cdot 5 = 20 \\ 2x^2 + 8x + 10 &= 20 \\ 0 &= 20 - 2x^2 - 8x - 10 = 2(-x^2 - 4x + 5) = 0 \\ 2(x+5)(x-1) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

10. A right triangle has one leg that is 3 times as long as the other leg. The length of the hypotenuse is  $\sqrt{40}$  inches. Find the lengths of the legs.



2 in, 6 in

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + (3x)^2 &= (\sqrt{40})^2 \\ x^2 + 9x^2 &= 40 \\ 10x^2 &= 40 \end{aligned}$$



## B) History

My teacher for history class is Mrs. Burns. The artifact I selected as a demonstration of my learning is my "In The Swamp" essay. I learned about changes in the 2nd Great Awakening, and about slavery. I wrote an essay about a painting of an escaped slave. This concept is important because it also taught me great morals aside from the facts. After learning about the "second Great Awakening," I was more thoughtful about hardships that the people of that time had to endure. One of my great memories in history class was when we did the "You be the Judge" project, because it was fun researching about similar cases, and there was plenty of interesting cases.

### In the Swamp-my answer - Bryan Ramos



In this writing piece, I will analyze what I see in the "In The Swamp" painting, what I feel about it, and what I can learn from this time in history. I will start off with what I see in the painting.

In this painting, the most noticeable feature is the man who doesn't have a lot of clothing on. I now know that he is an escaped slave thanks to this chapter. The man seems very scared and anxious as he is scrunched up behind tall grass and in very shallow water. In the background there are figures that I can see, and I am guessing that they are slave owners or capturers- also I think I see shadows of dogs, which were used very often to capture escaped slaves.

Secondly, what I feel about this painting. I feel very indignant to what is happening in the painting because I infer that the man could be hungry or maybe injured, yet he still has to flee nonstop and with caution. I also learned that the Great Dismal Swamp was very dangerous, and the man has almost nothing to defend himself. Another thing I learned was that most slaves at the time had no footwear, which would be extremely necessary in his case.

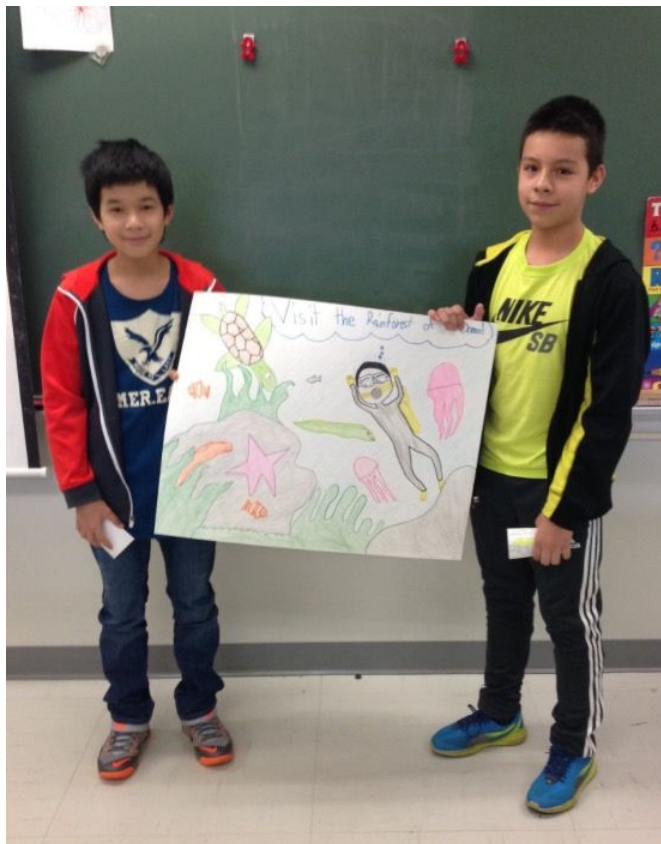
Lastly, I want to say what I might learn from this time in history. One thing I thought was a good lesson from this time was that you should take risks and be thoughtful of others. I can make a connection to Harriet Tubman, because although she had escaped to freedom, she went back into the south many times to help other people in need.

In conclusion, I want to say that this lesson and chapter are very important not only in history, but also provide us great lessons through the stories of historical legends such as Harriet Tubman.



### C) Science

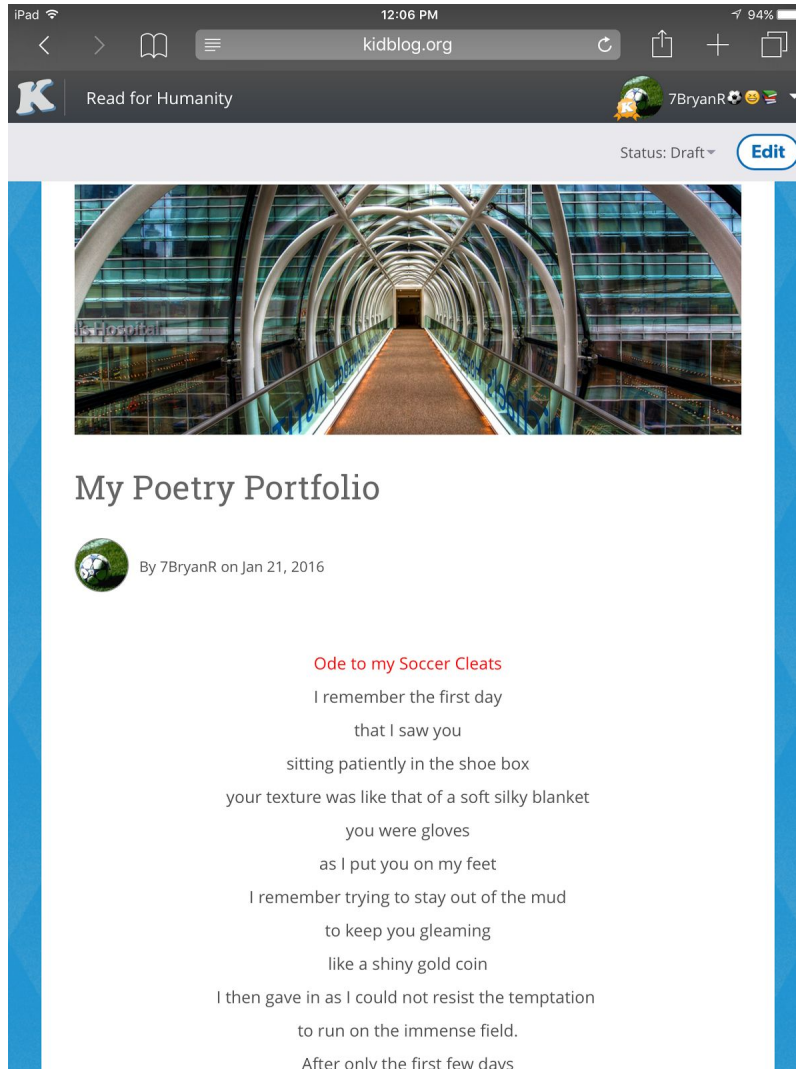
My teacher for science is Ms. Dalton. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is my biome poster. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: plants, animals, climate, and geography of the world's biomes. This concept is important because it would later connect to our current chapter. I would like to thank my partner Khanh T. for being a great partner. Because he was a great partner, we were time-efficient.



### D) Reading

My teacher for reading class is Dr. Donovan. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is my poem portfolio. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: how to incorporate language skills such as similes into poetry. This is important because it helps me to practice my language skills while I express myself and my thoughts. In order that I can master my language skills, I have to practice.

<https://kidblog.org/class/read4humanity/posts/77i0krkbl7h7skr7w5z044y5f>



### E) Booklist of the Year

- *The Outsiders*: By S.E. Hinton, Young adult fiction
- *La Linea*: By Ann Jaramillo, Realistic Fiction
- *100 Deadliest Things on the Planet*: By Anna Claybourne, Non-fiction
- *Technology of War*: By Steve White, Non-fiction
- *National Geographic Kids Almanac 2012*: By National Geographic journalists
- *National Geographic Kids Almanac 2013*: By National Geographic Journalists
- *The Maze of Bones*: By Rick Riordan, Adventure Fiction
- *Boy Meets Boy*: By David Levithan, Realistic fiction
- *Tree Girl*: by Ben Mikaelson, Realistic fiction
- *Outcasts United*: By Warren St. John, Realistic Fiction
- *The Story of The Attack on Pearl Harbor*: By Jim Whiting, Informational
- *Soccer Stars*: By Adam Sutherland, Informational

- National Geographic Kids Almanac 2015: By Nat Geo writers, Informational
- National Geographic Kids Almanac 2014: By Nat Geo writers, Informational
- Game Changers by Mike Lupica, Realistic Fiction
- Booked by Kwane Alexander, Realistic Fiction

## F) Writing

My teacher for writing is Dr. Donovan. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is my informational essay about the "Effect of Robots on Society." Because I can organize my piece by at least 3 comparison points and support it, this artifact demonstrates my learning. This concept is very important because it is a basic concept for writing informational essays.

<https://kidblog.org/class/compose/posts/4zafxcvotlfq85q3ds5x89jmf>

The screenshot shows a web browser on an iPad displaying a post on kidblog.org. The post is titled "The Effect of Robots on our lives" and is by user 6BryanR, published on Feb 29, 2016. The post content begins with a paragraph about the future of robots and their impact on society, followed by an introduction to the essay's three points: effects on jobs, companionship, and security. The essay then starts discussing the effect of robots on the workforce, citing an article from Scholastic News about the Henn-na Hotel in Japan.

**The Effect of Robots on our lives**

By 6BryanR 🏆👑 on Feb 29, 2016

Have you ever wondered if robots will ever revolt against their own creators? If they will ever take over millions of jobs once owned by humans? Or even develop really close relationships with people? Well, there has been many advances recently in the field of robotics, and robots are more advanced by the day. Experts are predicting that the economy, along with work and security can be really affected by the incorporation of robots, either in a positive or negative way, it is hard to predict. It is also important to know that robots are becoming more human-like, allowing them to do more tasks done by the average human.

In this essay I will inform you about the effects of robots on society, by these three points: effects on jobs, as companions or friends, and on security.

I will begin with the effect of robots on jobs and the world's workforce. Robots have been getting more capable of jobs that humans can do. For example, there are now robots who can work in restaurants and hotels. In a Scholastic News magazine, there was an article about a hotel in Japan where robots have replaced human workers. The robots at the hotel, called the "Henn-na Hotel," are smart enough to interact with guests, and by using robots the hotel has been able to make fees cheaper for guests. People think that we are opening a Pandora's Box by letting robots take jobs even if it reduces prices. Not only have robots begun to specialize in physical work, but also.

## G) PE

My teacher for P.E. is ms. Smrz. The artifact I selected to show my learning is my dance video. This artifact is evidence that I learned how to work well in a team, how to be time-efficient, all while I was working physically. This concept is important to know because it is perhaps one of the most important lessons to learn in 7th grade: cooperation. It was very memorable because it was fun and a great experience. Since my teammates were Bradley, Katie, and Khanh, I had fun.

#### H) GTT Design And Modeling/Computer Skills

My teacher for GTT and Computer skills is Mr. Pozucek. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is my “skimmer” project. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details while making my skimmer: how to make very accurate measurements in both the metric and English units, and following very close guidelines. This concept is important because I have have to be able to use both metric and English units in life. It was memorable because I was able to launch my skimmer very far.



### I) French

My teacher for French class is Mme. Patkunas. The artifact I elected to demonstrate my learning is my "L'annee de Gerard" book. This artifact is proof that I learned how to write about months and activities I like to do(in French). These concepts are important to know because they are necessary to know for french, to be a good speaker. Whenever, I step into French class, I know I will learn something new.

## New ARGUMENT

Should the government ban cigarettes?

Subject: P.E./Health

Topic: Smoking

Jargon: lungs, obesity, addictive, illegal, secondhand smoke

Millions of people are affected by smoking every year. I am sure that you have seen someone smoking, and not all the time people who you see smoke respect the restrictions on smoking. Have you ever wondered what secondhand smoke is? You will find out later in the argument, but we can say that it hurts innocent people who don't even smoke- sometimes children. Here's the question: should the government ban cigarettes? As you may know, cigarettes can be very harmful; not only to the smoker, but to people around them. It not only harms the lungs, but it also harms your mind. Many are uninformed about what lies in a cigarettes.

There are many opinions of whether the government should take action, and today we will talk about the "yes" and the "no."

On one hand, some may "yes, the government should ban cigarettes." Some reasons for "yes" is that it harms people around the smoker even if they don't smoke. At least 42,000 people die a year due to secondhand smoke, which means they weren't directly smoking, but instead people around were smoking; 480,000 people die from directly smoking a year. Another reason why people argue the government should ban cigarettes, is because they are addictive. The more you smoke, the more addictive and harmful it becomes.

On the other hand, some say "no, the government shouldn't ban cigarettes." One reason why they say this because if they were illegal, they would make more demand for it on the black market. Making smoking illegal would increase the demand for it on the black market; as a result, people who would sell cigarettes would be rich and wanted by the police. For example, when the U.S. banned liquor during the temperance movement, there was a higher demand for it, and people like Al Capone got rich. Next, they also say that cigarettes should not be banned because, according to LiveScience.com, smoking decreases the risk of Parkinson's disease and obesity.

Because making cigarettes illegal would just cause more demand for them on the black market, we don't think they should be banned. Instead we think that the should increase the legal age that you need to be to purchase them. People of all ages should be better educated of the dangers of smoking. There is many people who smoke, but not many know all of the side effects of smoking.

In conclusion, cigarettes are a very debatable subject and this case should continue to be debated. Many people are affected by smoking, but it is the choice of the people if they want to smoke, and I agree as long as they do one thing: smoke responsibility and follow rules.

Thank you.

## New INFORMATIVE

What Is Mardi Gras and it's History?

Subject: French



Topic: Mardi Gras celebration

Jargon: carnival, traditions, holiday, King's cake, parades, masks

It is that special night in France, New Orleans, and Rio de Janeiro for everyone. There's millions of people on the streets dancing, laughing, and wearing masks. Do you know what celebration this is? Why, it's Mardi Gras of course! Not only is Mardi Gras celebrated in these cities, but also in many other cities across the globe. The holiday is one of the most festive times of the year for many countries and cities, and the best part is that one of the largest Mardi Gras celebrations is here in Louisiana! Mardi Gras doesn't have an exact date because it varies. [Because there are beads thrown to the spectators, bring a big bag to catch the ones who come your way!](#)

In this article, I will explore the celebration of Mardi Gras for these three points: history, traditions, and how it's celebrated around the world.

First, let's look at the history of Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras is celebrated to prelude Lent, and was started as a celebration in which people would eat all the meat, eggs, and milk that they had. They did this as they entered a period in which these foods couldn't be consumed. According to historians, Mardi Gras goes way back thousands of years to Pagan celebrations of fertility and spring. It is believed to have originated in Rome, like many other celebrations. It wasn't until March 3, 1699, that Mardi Gras was introduced to the U.S., by French explorers Iberville and Bienville when they landed on what is now Louisiana. Mardi Gras wasn't always welcome in the U.S. and when Spain took control of that area, a ban was imposed on the Mardi Gras celebrations. It wasn't until 1812 that Louisiana became a state of the U.S. that the ban was uplifted, and on continued the Mardi Gras festivities.

Now moving on, we will talk about some of the traditions in Mardi Gras. [Mardi Gras is a celebration in which there are tons of different traditions, and they vary in different cities and countries.](#) First, I wanted to mention the parades, which are one of the most well-known traditions within Mardi Gras. Every year, these parades are held unless of a major catastrophe, such as a natural disaster. The parades, as you probably know, are full of large, dazzling floats and are extremely colorful, with there being a large amount beads thrown out to the spectators. Next, let me tell you about "King's cake", which is a type of food that is eaten during Mardi Gras in places like France, Belgium, Quebec, and New Orleans. King's cake is shaped in a circular form, with there being a big space left open in the middle. One thing that makes King cake so traditional is the fact that most King cakes have little baby figurines inserted in them. They decide who will offer the next cake and host it as well. Lastly, [something very important in the traditions of Mardi Gras: the traditional colors, which are green, gold, and purple.](#) These colors were chosen when Rex, one of the most iconic krewes welcomed visiting Russian Grand Duke Alexis Alexis Alexandrovich Romanof, who was represented with the colors purple, gold, and green. In this way, they became the official colors were chosen.

Given this information, we should move on to talk about how Mardi Gras has changed over the years, and we will mainly focus on a few events during it's history in the United States. As I said before, Mardi Gras has been believed to originated in Rome, and there has been many changes to it since then and when it arrived to the United States. As it spread through Europe, it was officially recognized as a holiday all across the country, and it was close to a time of

exploration. This meant that it was on the verge of being spread across the world; soon places like Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans became carnival capitals of the world. As it reached other countries, the celebration was revolutionized, with the addition of floats and masked balls. One major event in the history of Mardi Gras was during Spain's reign on Louisiana, in which many traditions of Mardi Gras were banned; however, the celebration continued. After Louisiana became part of the United States, the ban was lifted. Soon after, there was a series of violent incidents during the late 1850's that were so serious that city leaders were debating over officially ending the celebration. Imagine how Mardi Gras could have been impacted if they had done so? I can assure you that it could have been drastically changed.

In conclusion, Mardi Gras can easily be recognized as one of the world's biggest celebrations; however, there are many people who don't know what it is. I think that this celebration should be a little more recognized, as it is really a unique holiday. Then you may ask: why does this topic matter to me? There is one very simple answer to the question. One of the best, if not the best, Mardi Gras celebrations is here in the U.S.! New Orleans boasts massive parades, and you may even learn a little more about the history, so I encourage you to visit. And maybe you can experience a historic event and have one of the best episodes in your life!

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New NARRATIVE

"The Duplicate City"

Science

Topic: "Designer Babies"

Jargon: genetic, modifications, genes, disease, disaster, technology

I was heading towards my office, looking by at the buildings. My town just wasn't the same anymore. Trying to forget what had happened a decade ago was all I could do. The town used to be old-fashioned as it could get. Now there was buildings that were brighter than before, and their light blocked the stars I would use to watch. Now the cars were even louder, they blocked the tweeting of the birds I would love to listen to. That wasn't the worst though. The town was a place of diverse people when I was young. That was long gone. It all goes back to one historical moment in history.

15 YEARS EARLIER

"Breaking news!" The people gathered around the t.v. at the cafe to get a better look. "Scientists have made a revolutionary discovery! There is now a way to design your future child, with the help of new technology that helps insert specific genetic codes into baby genes to change your baby." The people at the cafe were awestruck, as they had never heard of anything like this. The news reporter continued, "I am here with Dr. Perry, who has been a leader in developing these methods," she said, "Dr. Perry, can you please explain what could be the benefits of designing you own child?" Dr. Perry was a tall skinny man with a long beard. He reminded me of those crazy scientists you would see in those films about frankensteins and monsters.

"Well there are many benefits, and they certainly outweigh the disadvantages or risks," he said, "we have mastered the technique, and there's absolutely no space for accidents. The benefits include being able to get rid of a disease and increase beauty and intelligence; although we are still finding new benefits." All the people in the cafe gave each other an uneasy look.

The owner, Owen he was called, said, "This is madness! Back in my day, we had nothing close of this technology." All the people settled down back to what they were doing. It was a cold, dark and windy day; the streets were still as busy as could be. I wasn't feeling too good-and these news didn't really make my day feel better. As I walked past all the shops, I got a feeling that this was important, and would affect the town someday. Not necessarily in a good way.

A few months went by until I heard about the topic again. I was sitting on my couch on a snowy, Winter day while drinking hot chocolate. I had gotten back from my office and turned on the television. Once again, it was that crazy scientist-but this time he was indeed acting crazy. "This right here, ladies and gentleman, is the first genetically modified baby in history!" I took a good look at the child. He had black hair, beautiful brown eyes, and tan skin. *Even though there seemed nothing unusual about the baby, I still got that feeling.* In fact, the feeling of something bad approaching made my head hurt like crazy, so I went to sleep. The next day, the whole town was talking about the "designer babies". I went over to talk to my good, old friend, Jason, to see what he thought about the news.

"It's extremely wrong!" he said, "what if all of a sudden the genetic modifications go wrong and there are babies all over the place with never before-seen diseases?"

"I agree, Jason, I really don't get a good feeling about this," I said. We were able to chat a little more before he went to watch his friend's football game. Later that night, I went home and did a little research on the "designer babies". I then discovered something new. The scientists were using machines to do the genetic modifying! I couldn't believe it, they were already doing something super risky, and they decide to leave it in the hands of technology! I was outraged. Supposedly, there was millions of women already appointed for the process. This month they said, was going to be one of the biggest events in history, as there was millions of babies expected to be modified.

One more month went by, and there was the bad news. Almost one million babies had been modified, and there had been a disaster. The "artificially intelligent" machines had done their job wrong. *As a result, three million babies had been modified in the exact same way-so they all looked identical.* Now there was going to be a lack of diversity: and my city was definitely populated enough for many of those babies to live here. The disaster was so great, that the president had to speak about the matter.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you have heard the news, and I want to tell everyone that there's nothing to worry about," he stated, "I want to remind you all that those babies are still babies, and that their lives matter. We don't want any child thinking he was a genetic accident when they grow up." At that moment, I turned off the television and threw the book I was reading at the wall. I had known something bad was going to happen. If only I could have done something about it.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

It was all because of this accident that my city was ruined. Almost all the people I knew had either passed away or moved away. I didn't move for one simple reason: I had nowhere to go. And so everyday, I would stare out my window in sadness at the futuristic city, and at the people all around who all looked the same. After the disaster, nobody ever modified another baby. It was almost as bad as having a city of all human-like robots. I had feeling that all this time the government was keeping something from us. The people just acted strange, and I never found out who they really were; or maybe *what* they really were.

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#### New POEM

"The Sacrifices at the Alamo"

Subject: History

Topic: The Battle of the Alamo

Jargon: battlefield, The Alamo, cannons, soldiers, bayonet, pain

As a leader on and off the  
 Battlefield  
 Authority he held  
 Of course he was scared,  
 Scared of what was happening to his family  
 And friends  
 and most of all, scared  
 Of being a leader  
 But he had no choice  
 the battle was close,  
 he could feel it

As the first shots were fired  
 and the first cannon balls  
 were blasted  
 he had to keep collected.  
 As he shouted orders, soldiers fell all around  
 And some shouted in pain  
 Entire walls of the Alamo  
 were shaken with huge impacts  
 It was at that point that he realized that matters  
 Must be taken into his own hands.

The soldiers were so close to the walls of the Alamo  
 But he took his bayonet  
 Charging into what was surely a suicide mission

Not much after  
there was that excruciating pain in his chest  
There he lay on the battlefield.  
One soldier came to him  
“General, we need you.”  
“Tell the others to never forget the Alamo.”