

Stela
Learning Portfolio
Winston Campus Junior High
2015-16

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Letter:

Dear Parents, Teachers, and Mr. Warren,

I am nearing the end of my 7th grade experience at Winston. I am a hardworking and shy student. I have tried to get involved in activities like volleyball. I did get involved in some other activities like book club and art club. When I came to Winston, I was really nervous. Meeting new people and having a lot of different classes made me a little worried;. although, now I am more confident and it turned out fine. In this portfolio, you will find evidence of my learning and new pieces that show how I am stretching my learning. This year I took the following classes: Science, Writing, PE, History, Spanish, Math, Reading, Computer Skills and Art.

Next, let me tell you about my greatest memories from those classes. We did a lot of fun projects that I will never forget. In Science we did a biome project with a small group. My group chose the Abyssal Zone and we learned a lot about it. For example we thought that nothing would live down there since it was so deep, but in fact there are a lot of animals like the Anglerfish and the Glowing Squid. My next class is writing and we learned a lot about the writing process. My favorite part was the interviews because we really got to learn about our classmates. After writing I go to PE class. We did a lot of sports, but my favorite was volleyball because I was the best at it. In History class this year we had Chromebooks for the first time, so a lot of our projects involved using them. Like the "You be the Judge" assignment where we had to be a judge for a court case and decide if they were guilty or innocent. As much fun as that was, I really enjoyed learning about the reforms that started to happen during the 1830's. Another class that I have is Spanish and I learned a lot of new words. Most of the words are cognates to English, so it was not that hard. My favorite memory was when we played a vocab game where we had to hit the picture that was representing the word with fly swatters. That was a really fun way of learning the vocab. In math this year we took a lot of notes and tests. I am most proud of my test scores because it shows how much hard work I put into it. Reading this year was really fun and we read a lot of short stories that we had to annotate. Some of the stories had some very deep topics. For one half of the year I had Computer Skills and my favorite memory was doing a travel powerpoint. It was really cool and the place that I chose was Rome, Italy and I learned a lot about this ancient city. For the second half of the year I had Art. My favorite part of Art was learning how to draw in 3d.

This is a screenshot of my grades so far.

Student: **Stanimirova, Stela Stanimirova** Year: 1516 - 2015-16 School Year
Winston Campus Junior High, Grade 07, 1516 School Year

☒ Show Term ☒ Show Progress

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	Y	J7014001-07	SCIENCE 7	Dalton E	107% A+	99% A	98% A	100% A		100% A	98% A	100% A	100% A		Detail
WCJH	2	Y	J7012001-10	WRITING 7	Donovan S	100% A	96% A	100% A	100% A		100% A	100% A	100% A	100% A		Detail
WCJH	3	Y	J7020001-02	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Smrz N	93% A-	93% A-	100% A	97% A		100% A	98% A	100% A	100% A		Detail
WCJH	4	Y	J7017001-09	HISTORY 7	Burns-wojtalewicz K	100% A	100% A	95% A	99% A		99% A	98% A	100% A	100% A		Detail
WCJH	5	Y	J9107-01	LUNCH 7	Staff S											Detail
WCJH	6	Y	J0025001-04	SPANISH I	Heston R	100% A	99% A	101% A+	100% A		103% A+	102% A+	100% A	100% A		Detail
WCJH	7	Y	J7013101-04	ALGEBRA REASON 7	Toscano D	100% A	97% A	101% A+	101% A+		104% A+	102% A+	102% A+	102% A+		Detail
WCJH	8	Y	J7011001-12	READING 7	Lucash J	93% A-	95% A	102% A+	100% A		100% A	98% A	98% A	98% A		Detail
WCJH	9	S1	J0027003-03	Computer Skills	Pozuczek P	100% A	101% A+	100% A	101% A+							Detail
WCJH	9	S2	J7019102-06	ART 7	Freitag M						98% A	97% A	96% A	96% A		Detail

In this portfolio you will find the following artifacts in this order: math notes, Indian Removal Act Essay, Biome Project, Song Analysis Project, flow chart, muscle poster, puppet pals video typing lesson and my blending studies of 3d shapes. I have selected these artifacts because I think that they show the most of my learning. My favorite artifact might be the Puppet Pals video that I worked on in Spanish. We had to work with partners and we had a lot of fun making it.

Next, let me tell you about the new pieces of writing that you will find. These new pieces of writing have to connect to something that we learned. The first thing that you will read is a poem that I wrote about the painting titled Persistence of Memory by the artist Salvador Dali. This relates to art because we learned how to analyze paintings before deciding if we liked it or not. You have to know the artist's main purpose for making the painting before judging it for yourself. The next piece of writing will be a narrative based on the Indian Removal Act. It is in the point of view of a child that is going through it. I chose this because I thought that it would be interesting to write a story about that. After that you will see an informational essay about an orchestra that makes their instruments out of garbage. The sympathy comes from the Spanish speaking country of Paraguay. This relates to Spanish because it's in Latin America and this is also a way to learn a little more about another culture. Lastly you will get to read an argumentative essay about whether or not we should have designer babies. In science we learned about genetics and how you inherit your genes from your parents. Now scientists have figured out a way to change that. I hope that you enjoy them!

Lastly, I want to talk about next year. I think that a good 8th grader has to be helpful to everyone. When I get to 8th grade, I want to get more involved in sports. I really want to try out in volleyball because that's one of my favorite sports and I also want to do track and field. I promise to help out the new 7th graders by telling them where the classes are located and by telling them what they need to do in order to succeed in those classes. I will work hard to get

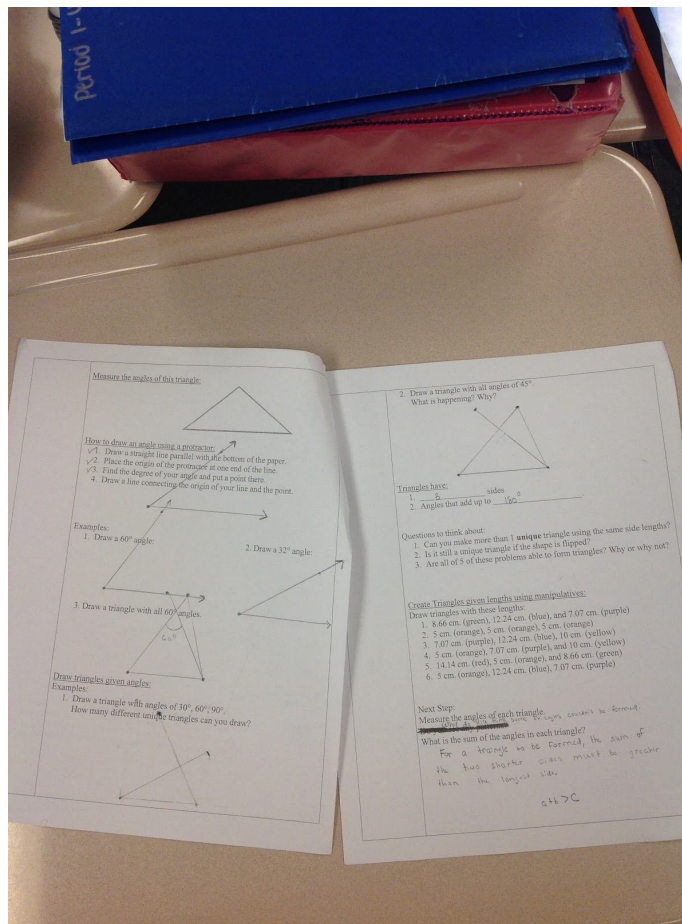
good grades too like this year again. Since I didn't try out for any sports this year, I will try next year. Hopefully Winston next year will become closer, because right now a lot of people are separated into their own groups.

Overall, this has been a really fun year. I have learned a lot from my teacher and I also made a lot of new friends. Something that I didn't expect this year that I liked a lot where all the clubs because last year there weren't a lot. This year has been very memorable and I hope that 8th grade will be the same.

Sincerely,
Stela Stanimirova

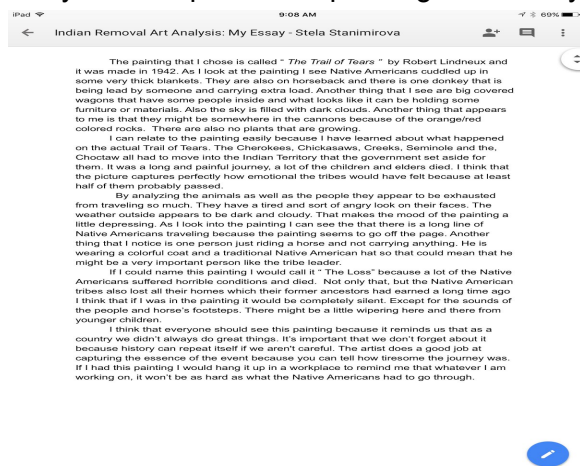
Math:

My Math teacher is Mrs. Toscano and we learned about a lot of things. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is my chapter 8.2 notes. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: how to measure angles by using a protractor, how to create triangles by using certain angles and how to find the value of x when it's missing. This is important to know because if you ever want to do construction in your house, you need to know what to do and what is realistic. That way you can either do it yourself or make sure that the person you hired, knows what to do. When we were learning this, we got into groups around our desks. We were given different colored sticks, that were also different lengths. We had a combination of different patterns to do and see if they would form the right triangles. This was actually pretty fun and since we finished first, we got to play around a little bit.



History:

My teacher for History class is Mrs. Burns. The artifact I selected to show my learning is The Indian Removal essay. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: the US gained a lot of land, but there was a great loss for the Native American tribe. This concept is important to know because it shows that we did not get along with the Native Americans back then, which is why there are so many problems with the reservations now. I think that this was a bad idea because the Native Americans were there first, so it wasn't right for us to take away their land. We also need to know this, so that history doesn't repeat itself. In this assignment, we were given a list of paintings to choose from and make an analysis essay on it. This shows how we can use what we already know and interpret it. Because we already learned about the Trail of Tears, this was an easy assignment. It was interesting to see how everyone interpreted the paintings differently.

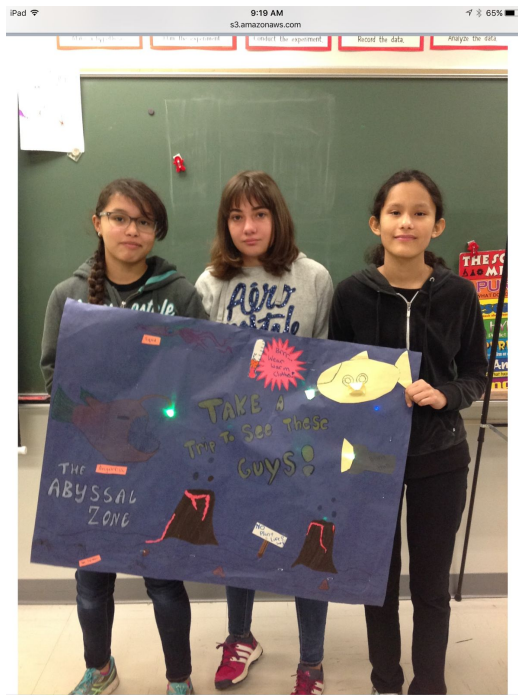


This is the painting I chose and it is called: *The Trail of Tears* by Robert Lindneux



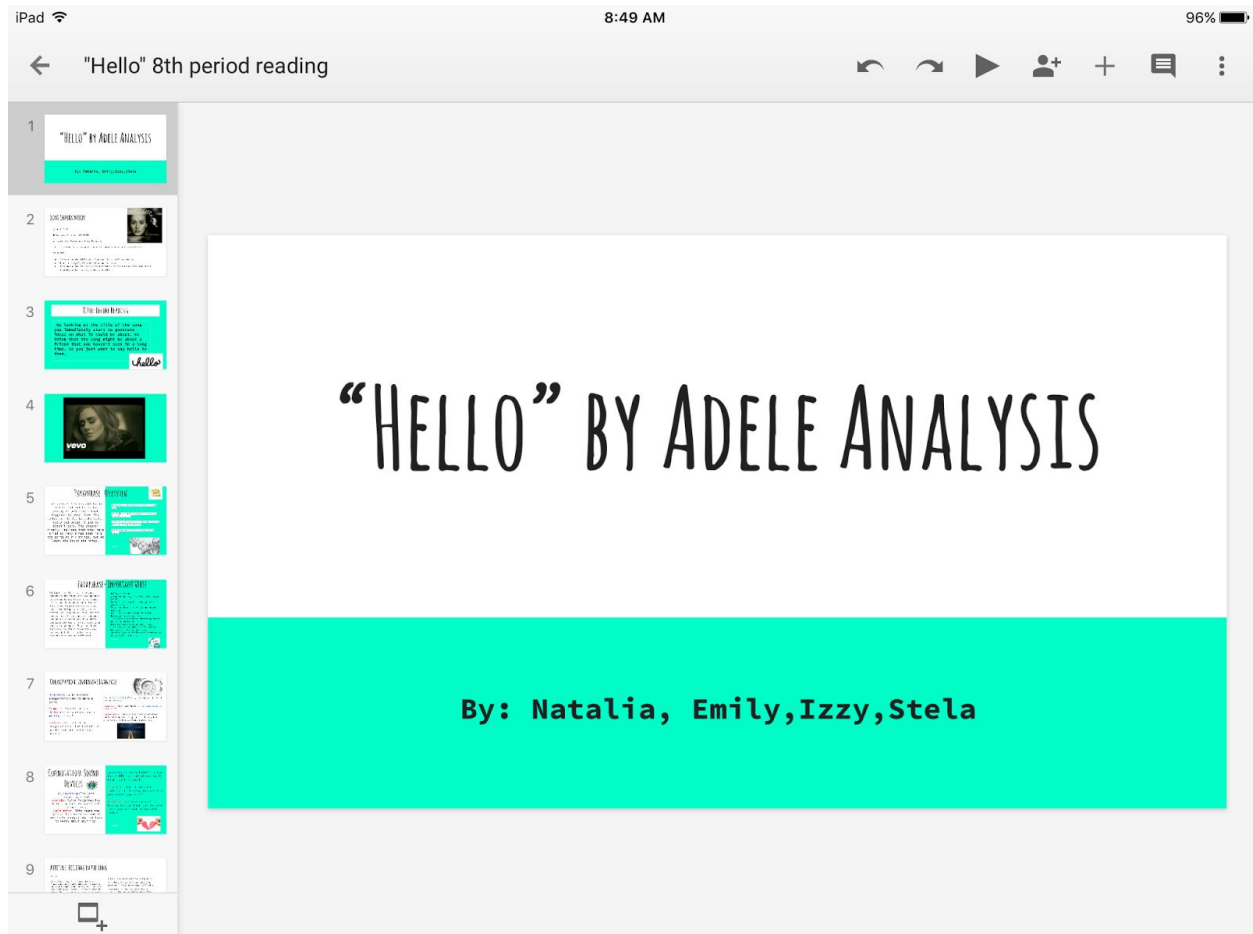
Science:

My teacher for Science class is Ms. Dalton. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is the Biome Project. We had to get into groups and chose one biome that seemed interesting to us and do some research on it. One person would research either the climate, geography, plants and animals. After we got all of our information onto the fact sheets, we had to make a billboard for it and a brochure to make people want to visit it. Then we had to present it to our class and the best presentation would get extra credit. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about the following concept: the environmental impacts every single animal differently and that all organisms have different adaptations based due to their environment. This concept is important to know because this is how we can begin to understand our environment and the animals in it. I worked on this project with two other people named Anayis and Sarah. We decided to do the Abyssal Zone because it seemed like a challenge. That is the deepest layer of the ocean where there are still organisms that live there. Since I had really creative partners, this project turned out fun - really fun. The best part was making the poster because we got to get really creative with it and we even added some lights to the Anglerfish, submarine and flashlight. In the end when the class did a vote for the best presentation, we had won.



Reading:

My teacher for Reading class is Mrs. Lucash. The artifact that I selected to demonstrate my learning is the Song Analysis Project. Today's version of poetry is mostly expressed through songs. So this was a way to apply what we just learned into a song to understand its deeper meaning. We had to get into groups and pick a song that interested us and analyze it like we would a regular poem. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: how to break down poetry and understand it's real meaning. This concept is important because songs are like poems. I can apply it to a poem to make it more understandable to me and discover its true meaning. This was really fun and my group members were: Emily, Sarah, Izzy and Natalia. We each had a different part and our song was "Hello" by Adele. I was in charge of the conclusion, songfacts, attitude, tone and the theme of the song. We had a really fun time breaking down the song and we also began to understand why the song was so popular.



Booklist

1. *Out of my Mind* By Sharon Draper ★★★★★
2. *Bamboo People* by Mitali Perkins ★★★★★
3. *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman ★★★★★
4. *Where She Went* by Gayle Forman ★★★★★
5. *The Girl that was Supposed to Die* by April Henry ★★★★★
6. *The Outsiders* by S.E Hinton ★★★★★
7. *Trash* by Andy Mulligan ★★★★★
8. *Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs ★★★★★
9. *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey ★★★★★
10. *The Forest of Hands and Teeth* by Carrie Ryan ★★★★★
11. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan ★★★★★
12. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan ★★★★★
13. *Shooting Kabul* by N.H Senzai ★★★★★
14. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Titan's Curse* by Rick Riordan ★★★★★
15. *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe ★★★★★
16. *Small as an Elephant* by Jennifer Jacobson ★★★★★
17. *Regine's Book* by Regine Stokke ★★★★★
- 18.

My favorite book that I read this year would be the *5th wave* by Rick Yancey. The genre was sci-fi and that is usually a topic that I am not very interested in, although this time it was different. It was full of action and mystery. Everything was a secret so when you are reading you can tell if the characters are telling the truth or not. The book was the end of the human race. Aliens (otherwise known as the others) have invaded the Earth in a series of 5 waves. I would recommend this book to anyone that is looking for an adventure type story.

Writing:

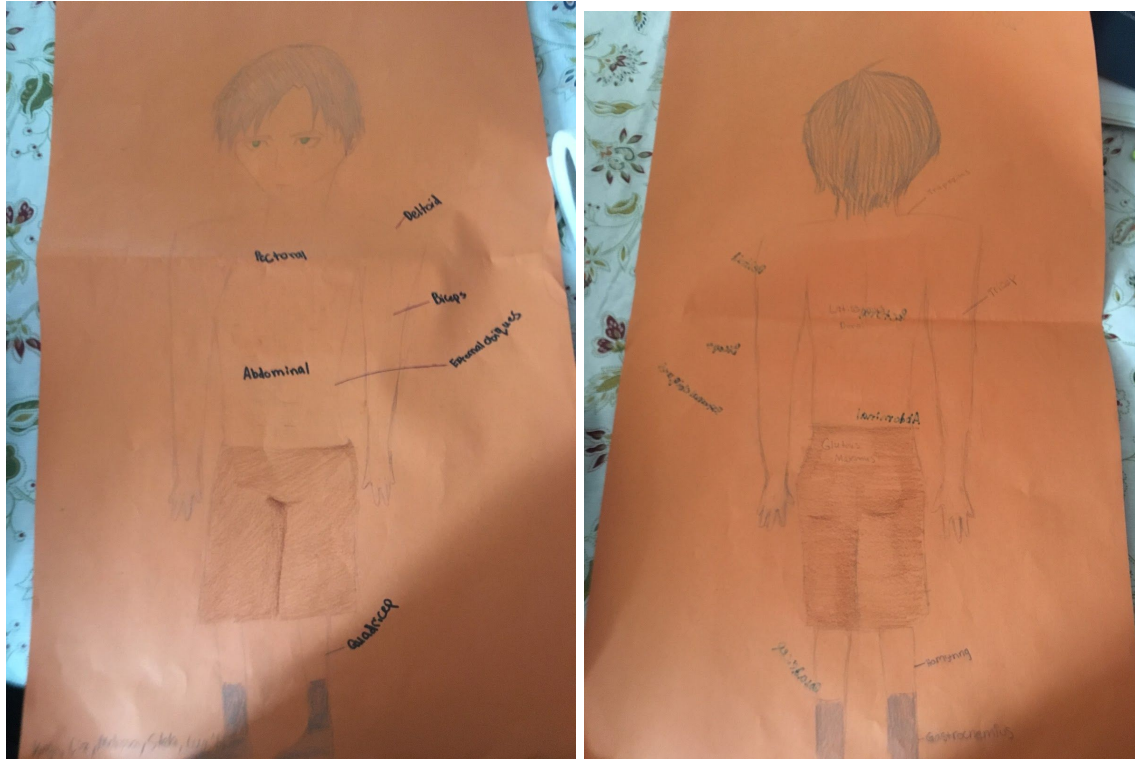
My teacher for Writing class is Dr. Donovan. The artifact that I have chosen to demonstrate my learning is the Compose for 7s. In the beginning of class we have to write for seven minutes without stopping. On the board there are usually about three or four topics to help us think of a story. Of course we can also write about anything that we want. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: how to extend my writing and come up with a different topic to write about. It also keeps our creativity going. This concept is important to know because it shows how we can write about anything and how everyone views the topics differently. It also allows us to just get our thoughts out on a piece of paper. We also learn how to write faster too. My favorite part is when we share our stories on Fridays because the topics can be interpreted in many different ways. In case we have writers block, we can use one of our stories for inspiration for our essays.

Date	Topic	Flow
8/25	First day of middle school	😊
8/26	Are videogames better than sports	😊
8/27	Camping	😊
8/31	Florida	😊
9/1	The Piano in the Forest	😊
9/8	5 senses: Which is most important	😊
9/9	List of products	😊
9/10	Menu for New Years	😊
9/14	Design for new school	😊
9/15	Talking Dog	😊
9/16	No Adults	😊
9/17	Bears Fishing	😊
9/21	draw type hand and write about things	😊
10/5	Elephant w/ monarch butterfly ears	😊
10/6	Fear good or bad	😊
10/8	At the store	😊
10/14	Stuck on Mars	😊
10/15	Halloween	😊
10/27	Spongebob & Patrick	😊
10/28	Mardi day aft	😊
10/29	What is death like	😊
11/2	The Painting	😊
11/3	Painful injury	😊
11/4	Scariest moment	😊
11/11	Which Halloween costume	😊
11/12	Dream House	😊
11/30	People are too concerned with beauty	😊
12-1-15	Lying	😊
12-2-15	Pitbulls - banned or not	😊
12-3-15	Should school be online	😊
12-7-15	Status update	😊
12-8-15	My favorite summer memory	😊
12-16	My favorite winter memory	😊

	Topic	Flow
1-21-16	Chromabooks	(1)
1-25-16	The Governor and the Snowshoes	(2)
1-26-16	Family Dinners	(3)
1-27-16	Gossip	(4)
1-28-16	Humans on Mars	(5)
2-1-16	Croc story	(6)
2-2-16	Recording	(7)
2-8-16	Over the weekend	(8)
2-9-16	TV Shows when I was little	(9)
2-17-16	Sleepover	(10)
2-18-16	Tenacious	(11)
2-22-16	The Snow Monkey	(12)
2-25-16	Snow Monkey 2	(13)
3-2-16	The Safe	(14)
3-3-16	The mountains	(15)
3-8-16	The Alaskan Race	(16)
	4th Quarter	(17)
3-29-16	The Raft	(18)
4-1-16	Stuck in a tree	(19)
4-6-16	Dear Future Children	(20)
4-8-16	Indian Removal Act	(21)
4-11-16	Should we tip our waiters/waitress	(22)
4-13-16	Art techniques	(23)
4-15-16	Should parents be able to design their babies	(24)
4-18-16	Mile Run	(25)
4-20-16	5 wishes	(26)
4-25-16	Yo Fruit Tree	(27)

PE

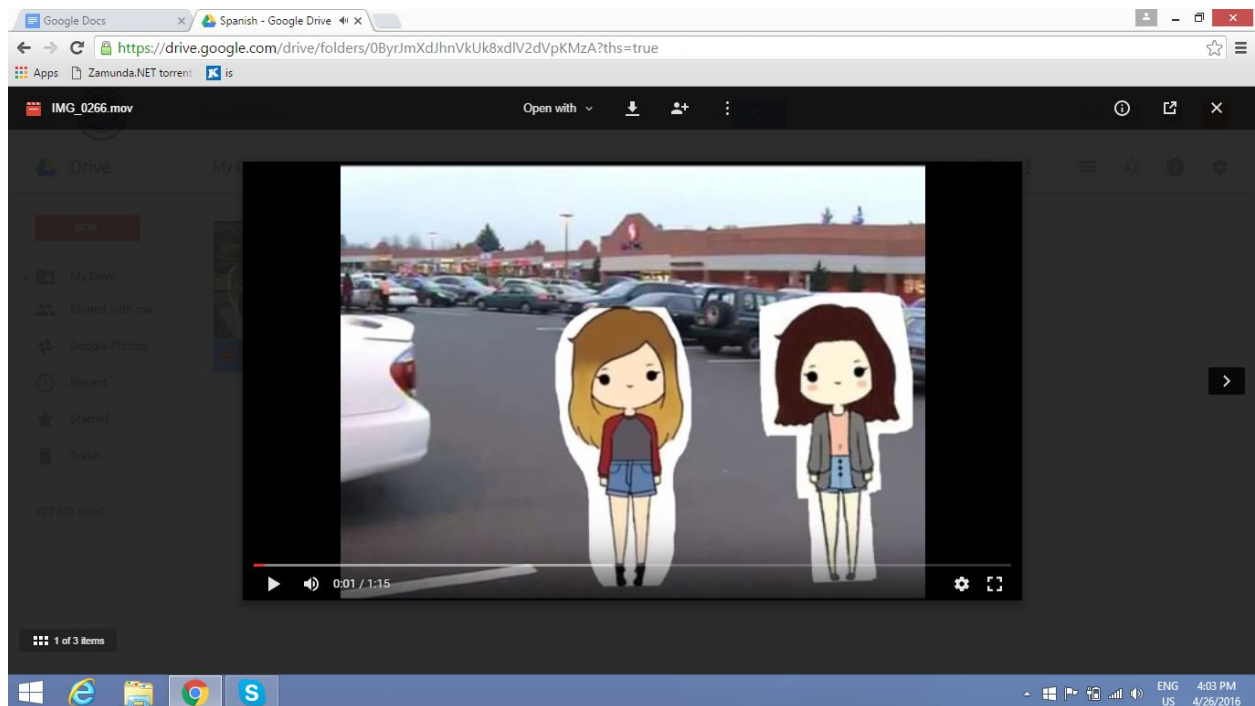
My teacher for PE class is Mrs. Smrz. The artifact that I selected to demonstrate my learning is the muscle poster. In groups we had to draw a person or a cartoon character and label the muscles in the body. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: where the different parts of the muscles are located and what type of machines work out certain types of the muscle. This concept is important to know because when you are going to a gym, you need to know what muscles you are working out. I was working on this poster with four other people: Liz, Melissa, Lupita and Kinga. We had a lot of fun drawing and labeling the person. Since I know where the muscles are located now, I know what machines to work out on.



Enrichments:

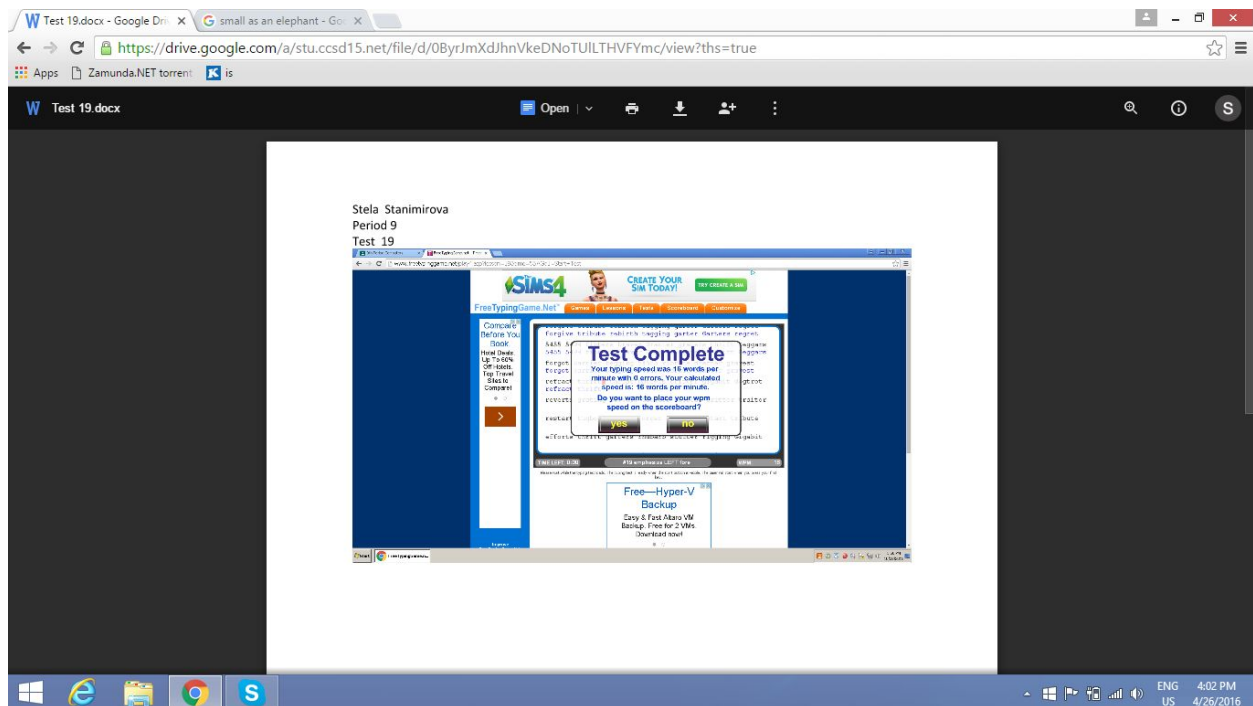
Spanish

My teacher for Spanish class is Mr. Heston. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is my Puppet Pals video. With a partner, we had to create a conversation between us about what ingredients we need to make a traditional Spanish dish. Then we had to film it on Puppet Pals. My partner was Jenny and we chose the dish, Paella. It's a traditional seafood dish from Spain. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: a traditional dish from Spain and how to have a conversation with someone in Spanish. This concept is important to know because we can understand another culture better by its food and this is the beginning to us to have full conversations in Spanish. I remember that it took us two whole class periods to film a video that was about a minute and thirteen seconds long. Since we kept messing up on the pronunciation, we had to restart. We had to often pause the recording a few times to laugh, but in the end it turned out great.



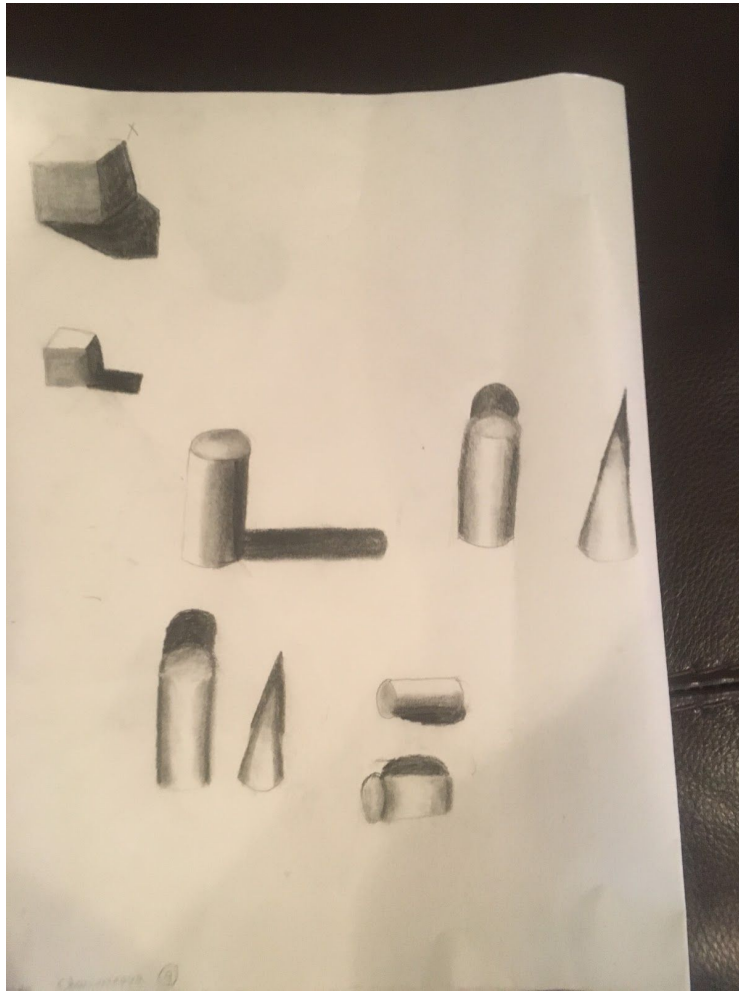
Computer Skills:

For the first half of the year I had Computer Skills. My teacher for computer skills class was Ms. Puzzuck. The artifact that I selected to demonstrate my learning is my typing lessons. Each week we had to do five typing lessons without looking down at the computer keys. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: how to write on a computer without looking at the keys and where the letters are located on the keyboard. I might be slow, but I am still very accurate. This concept is important to know because it makes typing faster once you get used to it. Also with technology advancing more, some jobs are even requiring it as an important skill that you need to have. You won't look professional if you still don't know where the keys are located. I remember that my friend and I would get really competitive with these lessons. After we were done with our projects, we would have a competition between us to see who can type faster. It would usually end in a tie.



Art:

For the second half of the year I had Art. My teacher for art class is Mr. Freitag. The artifact I selected to demonstrate my learning is my blending studies. We were assigned to create 3d shapes like cubes, prisms, cones, cylinders and many more. Once we drew the shape we had to shade it. The shading is the most important part because it shows where the light is and it determines from what angle you are looking at the shape. This artifact is evidence that I learned these details about this concept: how to make shaped 3d and how to correctly shade them. This concept is important to know because it helps you draw more realistically instead of using stick figures. When we were doing this, we had several challenging shapes to draw. I remember how bad my would look. My friends would laugh at it, but then help me fix it.



New: Poem

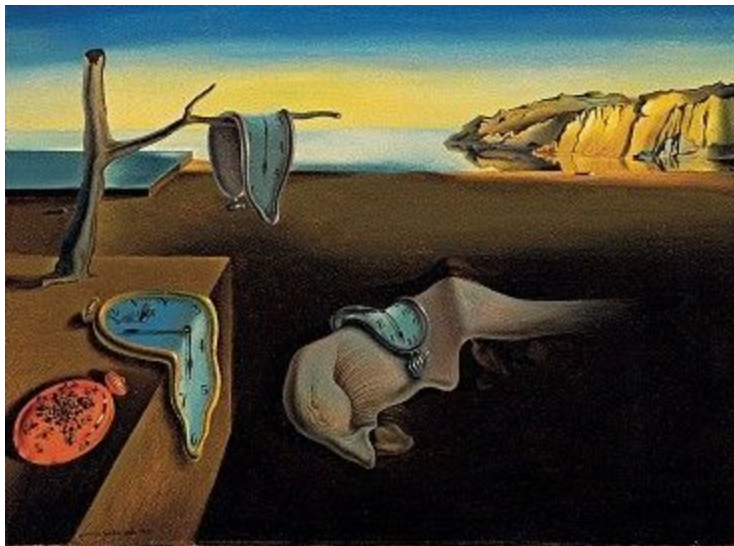
Title: Tick Tock

Subject: Art

Jargon: perspective, melting, manipulate, envision

We all hear the internal clock ticking,
a self-contained Doomsday device
Melting like candy in the desert heat.
We try to ignore the Fun House mirrors
that manipulate our memories.
Everything is becoming as flat as a pancake.
We try to put everything in perspective
But sometimes time just slips away.
Everyone envisions the world differently.

Persistence of Memory is a 1931 painting by artist Salvador Dali.



Simile: Everything is becoming as flat as a pancake.

Personification: But sometimes time just slips away.

Alliteration: Everyone envisions the world differently.

New: Narrative

Title: The Trail of Tears

Subject: History

Jargon: Indian Reservation, soldiers, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, Seminole

“ No, mama I don’t want to do this,” I told my mother.

There were already soldiers that were lining up behind our fort.

“ You know we have to leave Alo, now come on,” she replied back to me.

About three years ago the Cherokee tribe had made an agreement to give away our land over to the United States. We had to always tried to make peace with them, but they just won’t accept us. **We have even tried to be more like them, by dressing up the same way and also by trying to learn their language; however, they don’t even care.** To save ourselves from a possible war, our chief decided to sign a contract that gave all of our land away to them. The reason why they wanted to give it away was because our land was filled with fertile soil which is great for growing crops. In return they created an Indian Reservation where they would place all the tribes there. **On paper that seems like a lot of land, but try having these five different tribes in the same place: the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee and Seminole.**

Suddenly, we heard another bang on the door and my mother told me to hurry up. We said goodbye to our home and before we knew it, we were off onto a long journey west to the Indian Reservation. We were lucky because since I am still classified as a child, We got to stay in a small covered wagon. It isn’t the best space ever, but it was still better than walking. I had to share my space with a couple of kitchen supplies. Most of the people have to walk the whole trail in every single type of weather. There were a couple of soldiers that were with us to lead us to the reservation and that got to ride on horse back. There were also a lot of people crying because for the loss of their homes and they started to get a little angry at the soldiers. Luckily the soldiers had some weapons for protection. To be honest I felt kind of sorry for them. They have to walk with us all the way and back again to get home to their families. Although they still got horses, while we had to move on the muddy trail. I was starting to get a little worried because winter was going to be coming soon and we were going as slow as snails. I was hoping that we would begin to move faster before we started to see snowflakes up north. For now the crying and tears stopped, but I could hear the shiny boots of the soldiers stomping.

Before we knew it night came down on us. **I was hungry because I haven’t eaten all day, so I started to complain to my mom.** Although, she just told me to stay still for a couple of more minutes. Then all of a sudden the wagon stopped.

“ We must be resting here for the rest of the night,” my mom told me.

That was a good thing because everyone was exhausted from today. Then it hit me. How are we supposed to travel over a thousand miles to a camp where we might not even get along with the others. This is the worst idea ever, how come no one saw this coming?

The wagon was so uncomfy that night. I had to sleep on top of the pots and pans to make room for the elders. The elders are very respected here in this tribe. Well I can’t really complain because at least I had someplace to sleep. There were people that spread out their blankets and slept on top of the dirt. I didn’t even think that the soldiers slept that much either because they still had to keep an eye on us and protect us too. **When I woke up, I was starving.**

We had to preserve the food so I couldn't have a lot. In fact I only had a few pieces of bread. This was going to be a long journey.

We got to stop from time to time to stretch out our legs. I got to play tag with the other children, but each day there were fewer and fewer children. It was also getting extremely cold as we started to head north. No one really packed any warm blankets because in Georgia it was usually always warm. Luckily my mother had packed a blanket made out of buffalo skin that had been passed down from my great grandparents. That was keeping me warm, but a lot of other people were still getting sick. The elders were also starting to get really tired all the time and often had fevers. Whenever someone passed, the soldiers would grab a shovel and bury them at least a couple of feet into the ground; you can tell that they really didn't look forward to it. I bet that there was one thing that they wanted: to go home.

It was going to be like this for the next six months. I lost a lot of friends and our tribe started to get really small. At one point I was worried that my mother would get sick, but luckily she had a very strong soul. It took way longer than we expected because of the heavy snow fall. When I knew that the journey was over once we saw the sign that said "Welcome to the Reservation". We didn't know whether or not to be excited or sad. I was the only kid along with three others in this reservation. We were the only ones that survived, but I knew that things still weren't going to get easier. There were some other tribes that still needed to come, that is if they survived the long journey. I turned to my mom and noticed how much her eyes were filled with tears.

I walked in front of her and said "I wish that things were different."

"Me too," she replied back while she was holding me back as if I was going to leave her all alone.

New: Informational

Title: *Orquesta de Instrumentos Reciclad*

Subject: Spanish

Jargon: instruments, Paraguay, Latin America, Tchaikovsky, Metallica, violin, cello, saxophone

Deep amber is waxed to shine the dimensions of the wood made for the player's palm, string stretched from neck to ear. Sounds from Beethoven are played from it and some Tchaikovsky, too. A violin, one of the most beautiful instruments in the world, but this violin is special. It's made from an aluminum salad bowl and the strings are turned with forks. A weird combination right? Believe it or not, but there is a band that takes garbage and makes it into instruments. The group is called *Orquesta de Instrumentos Reciclad* from Paraguay. They literally live in a landfill, but somehow they have found a way to transform the garbage into instruments. In this paper I will talk about: where the group is from, how they formed it and what is in store for them next. This is a very unique band that creates music with a twist.

First, let me tell you about where they are from so that you can understand how hard it must have been for them. The group comes from the South American country of Paraguay. They live in Cateura, a slum built on a garbage dump outside Ascension which is the capital of Paraguay. A lot of people work in the landfill including children which usually end up following the same path as their parents. There over 500 people there and is the biggest landfill in Latin America. The poverty has forced children to work in landfills, neglecting any education that might lead them to a better life. It seems like an unlikely place for a music miracle to happen right? *But in this forgotten and polluted corner of the world, an inspiring adventure is taking place: La Orquesta de Instrumentos Reciclad.*

Next, let's talk about the idea for the whole thing. In 2006 Fabio Chavez from Argentina, who plays the clarinet and the guitar, opened up a music school. *One day he got the idea to teach music to the recyclers and use his personal instruments; however, there weren't enough instruments for all the children that wanted to join. When he noticed all the garbage around them, he decided to try make instruments out of it.* For example an aluminum salad bowl with forks works as a violin. Raw materials such as discarded barrels, tins, drainpipes and bottle caps can all be used to make different instruments. From this unusual orchestra of 20 poor kids flows the music of Mozart and Beethoven. This isn't just about playing music, this also teaches the kids commitments, respect, compromise and discipline. The children also have a lot of fun time performing. They first sparked attention when [Youtube](#) posted a video of them taking worthless garbage and making something beautiful out of it.

Finally, let me tell you about the outcome of all this. A lot of the kids have taken this opportunity and have become better people because of this. They now have a lot of commitment and creativity. A lot of other countries have tried doing the same thing as them hoping for the same success. Their instruments have even been featured the Musical Instrument Museum of Scottsdale, Arizona which is also the biggest instrument museum in the world. *Myrna Sislen even donated them 37 profession instruments, but they still use the ones that they make.* The group has performed in many places including the Orchestra Sympathy in Chicago. Thousands of people are sparked by their creativity every day.

In conclusion, this is a very emotional story that everyone can learn something from. It shows how a little creativity can go a long way. Music can easily bring people together because it doesn't matter where you are from you can play an instrument. The orchestra plays songs all the way from Tchaikovsky to Metallica. They don't only built instruments, but they also built hope for everyone back home. This goes to show that something worthless can turn into something priceless.

New: Argumentative

Title: Should We Have Designer Babies?

Subject: Science

Jargon: DNA, Designer Babies, Genes, Modify, disease, Scientists, trait, mutations, generations, genetic editing

What type of traits do you wish that you would have gotten from your parents? Is it a certain eye color or a skill like athleticism. For thousands of years we have been dreaming about being able to design our own children. Now it is actually possible. Scientists can now go in and edit the DNA to have a certain desired trait. This is great because we can eliminate diseases this way, but is it too simple. In This could cause some problems later on that we still don't know about. So here's the question: should we have designer babies. Before we begin let's define some terms.

- Designer Babies - genetically modified for beauty, intelligence or to be free of disease
- Modify - to change or improve something.
- Genes - a physical trait that you inherit from your parents.

On one hand, some people say “ yes “ that we should be able to design our own babies. This serves as a way for us to eliminate a dangerous disease. That way the children will have a happy and healthy life. This could also serve as a way for parents to pass down trait that they didn't receive from their parents. According to expert Lee Silver, she says “ even if you are a healthy adult you can still pass down a deadly childhood disease to your children or grandchildren.” This means that it doesn't matter if you are perfectly healthy now, you can still pass down a disease to a future generation. Genetic editing could help prevent this. Scientists do this by cutting the DNA to make mutations. Then use technology to insert new pieces of genetic code at the side of the cut. **Not only can we eliminate disease, but we can give everyone at least one of these desired traits: athleticism, smartness, creativity and courage.** This will lead to the human race becoming superior.

On the other hand, some people say “ no “ to this. Since this is relatively new, we aren't sure what's going to happen. Professor Robert Winston said “ we can't just discard the results in case something happens, and we aren't even sure of the side effects.” **A problem might not appear in the first generation, but it could later on. This was the top breakthrough in 2013; however, genetic editing is banned in a lot of countries due to the uncertainty of not knowing what is going to happen.** Studies show that while you are adding a new gene you are also affecting the ones that are there. This is very risky because there is only one you so if something happens there might not be a cure. There are other people that also complain that this is too simple and that there might be something that we haven't figured out yet.

From my experience, there have been many times where I have wanted to change something about myself. **If I could choose any trait to have, it would be tallness.** I feel really short and whenever I need to grab something, it is always on the tallest self. I think that trait would come in handy a lot, instead of taking a chair and standing on top of it to get what I want.

That trait would come in handy a lot, but I have learned to accept it. When I was little I used to be a champion at hide and seek because I was so small that I could fit into the smallest spaces. So it wasn't so bad. Overall I am like all of the traits that I have been given because they are what make up me.

Now, here's what I think. I can see the " yes " side because this could serve as a way to finally eliminate diseases. I can also understand the " no " side because we don't know what's going to happen.. What I think that is most important is that we have to remember that we are all unique. How would the world be if we all had blonde hair and blue eyes. Everyone would be the same and nothing interesting would ever happen. In my experience I have always heard of people talking about how they don't like about themselves. For example some people don't like that they are short, but they are also usually very fast runners. What might seem like a bad trait has a million good qualities about it. We often focus on what we don't have instead of what we do. Which is why I think that we really shouldn't modify our own babies unless if it is necessary.

In conclusion, my answer to the question: should we modify our own babies, is no. I urge you to think about how different and unique you are. If we allow this a lot of people will be the same and the world will be a boring place. Problems will always exist because there is no such thing as a perfect society. We should be happy that we are all different. It's too risky to do this without knowing what will happen in the future. Research shows that parents are often happier when they don't know anything about their kids yet. If they would be able to design their own babies, then it takes away from the surprise element of what the child will be like when it grows up. Instead of thinking of what you could have, be happy with what you do have. I can guarantee that you will never find another person that is exactly like you. Which is the reason why you have friends because they can't afford to lose you, since they won't find another person like you. So be happy about yourself because there is only one you in the world.

Acknowledgments Page:

I would first like to thank my parents for pushing me to do the best I can this year. They cared a lot about my schoolwork and were always there to help me with whenever I had trouble with something. It was a tough year, but with the help of them and a couple of friends, I was able to get through it. I would also like to thank my friends for cheering me up on a dull day. Without them the school year would have been very boring. Lastly, but not least I would like to thank my teachers for always challenging me to put forth my best effort. They were always willing to help me if I have a question and helped me even more when I after school. This year I have learned to keep track of my work and to accept new challenges. I truly feel like I am leaving Winston knowing that I learned something. It was a fun and very interesting year. I hope that next year will be the same. I would like to say thank you, again to all the people that helped me out this year. I now know that I can walk into 8th grade with confidence.

Rubric rating submitted on: 5/6/2016, 10:30:32 AM by donovans@ccsd15.net

	2	1
<p>format</p> <p>Your score: 2</p>	<p>times new roman only</p> <p>12 font except for headings or titles of pages</p> <p>each new writing has a Description at the topic (new ____,subject, topic, title, jargon)</p> <p>table of contents</p> <p>title page</p>	<p>needs revisions</p>
<p>Letter</p> <p>(7.2)</p> <p>Your score: 2</p>	<p>Greeting and closing with proper punctuation</p> <p>body paragraphs that describe the contents of the portfolio</p> <p>reflects on experiences as a 7th grader</p> <p>considers the impact as an 8th grader</p> <p>transitions to signal topic shifts</p>	<p>missing features of the letter</p> <p>needs revisions</p>
<p>Language in Artifacts</p> <p>Descriptions and Essays</p> <p>(Language 7.6)</p> <p>Your score: 2</p>	<p>Show GREAT vocabulary knowledge in all academic subjects by using jargon (words and phrases specific to the subject).</p> <p>1 complex sentence in the informational, 1 in the narrative, 1 in the argument.</p> <p>1 compound sentence in the informational, 1 in the narrative, 1 in the argument</p> <p>1 colon for emphasis or to introduce a list in the informational, 1 in the narrative, 1 in the argument</p> <p>1 conjunctive adverb in the informational, 1 in the narrative, 1 in the argument</p>	<p>Missing artifacts.</p> <p>Not enough jargon to show knowledge of the subject.</p> <p>Not enough complex sentences to demonstrate mastery.</p> <p>Needs revisions</p>
<p>Artifacts</p> <p>(W.7.2A)</p> <p>Your score: 2</p>	<p>Artifacts (images, links) present to help the reader understand the description</p> <p>artifact for each class</p> <p>bonus - images for new writing</p>	<p>Missing artifacts to support the understanding of the descriptions</p>

	that supports the content	
<p>Argument Essay (W.7.1A-D.) Your score:</p>	<p>engaging lead story to set up the problem clear thesis statement with the argument question discuss both sides of the argument logically support claims with evidence, expertise, facts, credible sources use transitions to show relationships among the claims and evidence provide a concluding statement that answers the thesis and suggests a call to action</p>	<p>missing features of the argument essay needs revisions</p>
<p>Informative Essay (W.7.2 A-D) Your score: 2</p>	<p>Engaging lead to set up the purpose for this information Clear thesis statement previewing the points to follow organize ideas as compare/contrast, cause/effect, order of importance, steps, problem/solutions include headings, charts, and images where helpful Support the information with facts, definitions, details, quotations from experts, examples use transitions (first, next, therefore, however) use language/jargon specific to the topic provide a conclusion that expresses why this topic matters</p>	<p>missing features of the informational essay needs revisions</p>
<p>Narrative Essay (W.7.3 A-D) Your score: 2</p>	<p>A real or imagined experience or event that has a problem/conflict engaging lead that sets the time, place, and characters dialogue with description of how characters speak pacing -- equal parts for the beginning, middle, end</p>	<p>missing features of the narrative needs revisions</p>

	sensory language (smell, sounds, taste, texture, weather) description of the characters appearance, behavior thoughts and feelings of the characters/narrator transition words to show a change in time or place (when, the next day) concluion that shows the theme or message of the event	
Poem (W.7.8) Your score: 2	Gather relevant information from one or more sources to create a poem that paraphrases the information follow a standard format for citation (use the add-on Easy bib).	missing the key information or citation of the source that informed the poem
Revision (W.7.5) Your score:	Develops and strengthens writing as needed by accepting, applying, and extending feedback in revision and editing	Develops and strengthens writing as needed by accepting and applying feedback in revision and editing

Comments:

Such careful work here, Stela. I so appreciate how you are attending to the academic language in your artifact descriptions (jargon) and then stretching what you've learned and experienced into new genres. I have written some notes below.