AP Senior English

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

J. Dracos-Tice

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| **The Layers** |  |
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| I have walked through many lives,  some of them my own,  and I am not who I was,  though some principle of being  abides, from which I struggle  not to stray.  When I look behind,  as I am compelled to look  before I can gather strength  to proceed on my journey,  I see the milestones dwindling  toward the horizon  and the slow fires trailing  from the abandoned camp-sites,  over which scavenger angels  wheel on heavy wings.  Oh, I have made myself a tribe  out of my true affections,  and my tribe is scattered!  How shall the heart be reconciled  to its feast of losses?  In a rising wind  the manic dust of my friends,  those who fell along the way,  bitterly stings my face.  Yet I turn, I turn,  exulting somewhat,  with my will intact to go  wherever I need to go,  and every stone on the road  precious to me.  In my darkest night,  when the moon was covered  and I roamed through wreckage,  a nimbus-clouded voice  directed me:  "Live in the layers,  not on the litter."  Though I lack the art  to decipher it,  no doubt the next chapter  in my book of transformations  is already written.  I am not done with my changes. | |

*Stanley Kunitz*

What are the layers of your life? What’s in your book of transformations so far? For your final work in English at Westminster, you will create a digital portfolio that includes pieces unified by a theme, question, motif, or image.  In order to create this collection, look back over your essays, poems, and creative nonfiction from the year, searching for threads that run through your work.  Your portfolio will be built on WordPress.

Our hope is that this portfolio will travel with you as a collection of stories and writing that matters to you.

**Content**

A. Opening personal essay (three substantial paragraphs)

*This opening essay, which appears on the home page of your portfolio, should be organized around the “through-line” discovered as you look back through your work. This introductory essay should refer specifically to the various pieces in your portfolio (give quotes) and should explain why you chose them.*

B. Five current pieces, revised again in terms of ☺ sheet and mechanics. The titles of your pieces should help illuminate your “through-line.” One of these pieces MUST be your photo essay.

*(e.g., scene from your life, braid, tryptych with link for song lyrics, slam poem, photo essay, personal literary essay, rap poem, place poem, film analysis, typed up in-class essay)*

C. The things you carry (this will be new)

Top ten quotes from class readings

Top ten bumper stickers

Top ten song lyrics

Top ten good-byes

**Grading guide**

Portfolio is organized around a unifying principle

All pieces are there

They show evidence of revision and are polished

Grade on intro piece

Grade on C. and D.

Substantial comment thread for three of your pieces; at least five

comments each (these can come from classmates or from

anyone else in your life)