

# Connections Autobiography Project

August 19, 2002

The overall theme for the first grading period of this school year is connections. In Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts, we are learning how people are connected through history, science, reading, and writing. Our first Language Arts project will involve connections we have with our families and friends. This project will count as a major test grade for the first grading period.

The Connections Project autobiography will also serve as the basis for the main page of each student's online language arts portfolio. This portfolio will be designed by the student and will contain writings completed during the year. Items from other classes may also be placed in the electronic portfolio if the student desires. The purpose of the portfolio is to present published work to a global audience. The portfolio will be continually updated and changed to show development of the student's writing.

## The Connections Autobiography Project

An autobiography is a story you write about yourself, beginning from the day you were born up to the present. As you tell your life story, you should mention the connections you have with your family and friends. You may need to interview your parents and other family members in order to gather information about yourself that you may not remember (for example, your first word, how old you were when you learned to walk, etc.). *You* should be the focal point of the writing, and connections should be made from you to other people of importance in your life. Your autobiography will be accompanied by some sort of graphic representation (pictures, drawings, etc.) of yourself during the different stages of your life.

The finished project will be due on Friday, September 20, 2002. It will consist of 3 - 5 pages typed and double-spaced using 12 point Times or Times New Roman font. See the attached rubric for further guidelines. Time on the school computers will be provided for those students who do not have access to a word processor at home. Please let me know immediately if you will need to use a school computer to type your project. You will need to save your project on your hard drive or a floppy disk for later use. I strongly recommend that you keep 2 full back-ups of your work in the event that the project accidentally gets erased, lost, or tampered with.

Once printed projects have been graded and I give you feedback, you will have the opportunity to make changes for your electronic portfolio web page. You will need to email me a copy of your revised final draft (preferably saved as a Microsoft Word document) so that we can make it into a web page in the school computer lab. *You cannot bring the project to school on a disk.* Floppy disks and CDs may not be brought to school because of the possibility of infecting the entire school district network with viruses. Therefore, all files must be sent as attachments via email to [huelsmanbella@clarke.k12.ga.us](mailto:huelsmanbella@clarke.k12.ga.us).

Because the autobiographies will be placed on the Clarke Middle web site for the world to see, only first names should be used in your autobiography. You must be careful not to write anything about a person that might embarrass or offend him or her. If you prefer to change the names of the people you write about, you may do so. Also, pictures are required for the final printed draft of the autobiography that you will turn in to me, but they will not be included on web pages. You may include hand-drawn images of you and your family and friends, but no photographs will be allowed on the web site.

I will check student progress on the Connections project throughout the quarter. There will be due dates for brainstorming and rough drafts. Time will be provided for in-class peer editing and revision. All due dates will be announced in class.

A culmination of the Connections projects will be the Sixth Grade Family Banquet. The date for this banquet will be announced in class. Each student in the sixth grade will be asked to bring in a traditional family food to share with his/her teammates. Bring enough of your family food for each person in your homeroom. If possible, the food should be representative of one of the places your ancestors used to live. For example, I will bring pizzelles, Italian cookies, using a family recipe from my Italian grandmother.

-- Mrs. Huelsman-Bell

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We have read the project descriptions and understand that the final *printed* draft of the Connections Project is due on Friday, September 20, 2002.

Student signature	Date	Parent signature	Date
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\_\_\_\_\_ I grant permission for (student's name) \_\_\_\_\_'s writings and other work to be placed on the Clarke Middle web site as part of his/her electronic language arts portfolio. I understand that only my child's *first* name will be shown on documents placed on the web site. I understand that no pictures of my child will be included on the web site.

Parent signature	Date
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\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for (student's name) \_\_\_\_\_'s writings and other work to be placed on the Clarke Middle web site. I understand that my child will create his/her writing portfolio on paper, and it will be housed within Mrs. Huelsman-Bell's language arts classroom. His/her work will not be available for public viewing.

Parent signature	Date
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