

Personal Metaphor Assignment

AP Literature

Metaphor is one of the most essential literary techniques of AP Literature prose and poetry. I want you to get comfortable with identifying and understanding metaphor and its many levels of meaning. By creating your own metaphors, you will be demonstrating your understanding.

For your first assignment of the year, you will need to create a metaphor that represents an aspect of your personality. This assignment will not only help the class get to see you “on another level”, but also may be useful in brainstorming for your college personal essay. The only requirement is that you try to think beyond the obvious (i.e. do not say “I am a soccer ball, because I play soccer”), and to try to visually represent your metaphor in a creative mash up to bring to class.

To help you get started, you *may* choose from the following categories to create your personal metaphor:

- Animal
- Car
- Article of clothing
- Day of the week
- Food
- Color
- Movie
- Fragrance
- Building
- Plant
- Musical instrument
- Geometric shape
- Piece of furniture
- Season of the year
- Television character
- Cartoon or comic character
- Appliance or machinery
- Natural phenomenon
- Word

After you write a statement, for example “If I were an animal, I would be _____ because _____,” then try to VISUALLY represent your metaphor in a creative way. You can draw it, electronically design it, paint it, sculpt it, cut out your face and paste it to the object, Photoshop it, or whatever medium you would choose to use. The final product will be presented and turned in for a grade.

The project can be completed on a simple page of paper, a large notecard, a square of scrapbooking paper, or brought in as a physical 3D object. It need not be poster-sized.

See the website for a list of examples that may help to inspire you, but do not COPY any of the examples verbatim.