**THE BODY BIOGRAPHY**

**A characterization project of a visual and written portrait illustrating several aspects of the character's life within the novel/play.**

You have many possibilities for filling up your giant sheet of paper. I have listed several, but please feel free to come up with your own creations. As always, the choices you make should be based on the text; for you will be orally explaining (and thus, in a sense, defending) them at a "showing" of your work. Above all, your choices should be creative, analytical, and accurate. You will receive two exam grades for this project; one for fulfilling the requirements and another for your oral presentation to the class.

*Your biography should accomplish these objectives:*

1. Review events involving your character for the audience
2. Communicate the full essence of your character by emphasizing the traits that make him/her who he/she is.
3. Promote discussion of your character.

*Although I expect your biography to contain additional dimensions, your portrait must contain:*

—a review of events  
—visual symbols 

—an original text

—your character's three most important lines (quotes) from the story/play

# **Body Biography Suggestions**

1. **PLACEMENT**-Carefully choose the placement of your artwork and text. For example, the area where your heart would be might be appropriate for illustrating the important relationships within his/her life. Be thoughtful about your placement—head, arms, legs, chest, stomach, shoulders, etc.
2. **SPINE**-Actors often discuss a character’s “spine.” This is his/her objective/goal within the novel or play. What is the most important goal for your character? What drives his/her thoughts and actions? How can you illustrate this?
3. **VIRTUES & VICES**-What are your character’s most admirable qualities? His/her worst attributes? How can you make the audience visualize them?
4. **COLOR**-Colors are often symbolic. What color(s) do you most associate with your character? Why? How can you effectively work these colors into your presentation?
5. **SYMBOLS**-What objects can you associate with your character that illustrate his/her essence? Are there object mentioned within the novel/play itself that you could use? If not, choose objects that especially seem to correspond with the character.
6. **MIRROR/MIRROR**-Consider how your character appears to others on the surface and what you know about the character’s inner self. Do these images clash or correspond? What does this tell you about the character?
7. **CHANGES**-How has your character changed within the novel/play? Trace these changes within your text and/or artwork.