**What does it mean to be creative? How can we become creative? How do we come to think independently? What have you learned about the world through your experiences in and out of school? How can we improve the world through what we learn? How do prior experiences impact who we become as individuals and how we see the world?**

* “The brain is always going to go for the easiest thing first. It takes the path of least resistance. Creativity emerges when we get off the path of least resistance. All of the good ideas are in there, but we have to dig deeper, and try something new” David Eagleman in *The Creative Brain*
* “The principle of continuity of experience means that every experience both takes up something from those which have gone before and modifies in some way the quality of those which come after.” from John Dewey’s *Experience and Education*
* “We came then near the river. We spent a long time walking about the noisy streets flanked by high stone walls, watching the working of cranes and engines and often being shouted at for our immobility by the drivers of groaning carts. It was noon when we reached the quays and, as all the labourers seemed to be eating their lunches, we bought two big currant buns and sat down to eat them on some metal piping beside the river. We pleased ourselves with the spectacle of Dublin’s commerce—the barges signalled from far away by their curls of woolly smoke, the brown fishing fleet beyond Ringsend, the big white sailing-vessel which was being discharged on the opposite quay. Mahony said it would be right skit to run away to sea on one of those big ships and even I, looking at the high masts, saw, or imagined, the geography which had been scantily dosed to me at school gradually taking substance under my eyes. School and home seemed to recede from us and their influences upon us seemed to wane.” “An Encounter” by James Joyce’
* “We see and imagine at the same time” “Why Science Is Not Enough: Only through our imagination can we know the world” by John Lukacs
* "There is nothing small or cramped about wisdom.  It is something calling for a lot of room to move.  There are questions to be answered concerning physical as well as human matters, questions about the past and about the future, questions about things eternal, and things ephemeral, questions about time itself ... questions about the soul"  
  Seneca, "On Liberal and Vocational Studies"
* “Yet if the only form of tradition, of handing down, consisted in following the ways of the immediate generation before us in a blind or timid adherence to its successes, “tradition” should positively be discouraged. We have seen many such simple currents soon lost in the sand; and novelty is better than repetition… No poet, no artist of any art, has his complete meaning alone. His significance, his appreciation is the appreciation of his relation to the dead poets and artists …The past should be altered by the present as much as the present is directed by the past” T.S. Eliot “Tradition and the Individual Talent”

**Stories**

Read, watch, or listen to a personal narrative or interview of a creative person and present a summary to the class.

**Conversation**

Record an interview or conversation about a creative person’s experiences, perspective, opinions, and/or understanding of what it means to be creative. Create a podcast – it should be at least 5 minutes long.

**Politics**

Read an essay about a political or social topic concerning a creative solution to a problem and present a summary to the class.

[science, health, psychology, climate change, engineering, politics, policy, law, taxes, social issues, violence, abuse, alcohol, drugs, family, religion, convention, gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, immigration, justice, economics, business, poverty, work, money, status/class, greed, mobility, culture, democracy, language, healthcare, criminal justice]

**Art**

Present on what you consider a great act of creativity.

[sports (recreation, entertainment); media (webpage, photojournalism, documentary, television, movies, comedy, technology); art (painting, music, literature, memoir, children's book); personal (object, person, art); science (discovery, invention, formula), antique, souvenir, award, religious piece, family member, friend, public figure, organization, institution, charity, anything you created or skill you have, architect, building, city, country, religion, place, etc. (with prior approval)]

**Final Video Essay**

How does it feel to graduate? What have you learned? What kind of future do you want? What have you realized about creativity?

Write a one-page reflection, then create a media presentation using an audio recording of your essay, video clips, text, and/or images.

ALSO: quote yourself (using a quote from your reflection essay), put your name on it, and print it out on an 8.5x11 inch piece of paper. This quote will be put on display in the hallway.