

# An Enriched Life “Antholio”

The Crème de la Crème Combination of Wanna Piece of Me  
and excerpts from your Personal Literary Anthology and Showcase Writing Portfolio

*This is a project I have done for decades with students (I made my own Antholio too). Portfolios have been popular at various educational/life/professional junctures, and wherever they end up now or in the future (and in whatever formats) I know that (according to parents, students, and other teachers) this has been the most important project I've ever encouraged my students to do. Below are summaries of guidelines I gave my students. You can make your own choices of what and how much to include without my more detailed directions. I wish you could see the masterpieces my middle school students created, but most students (even the techies) produced on paper. A few pictures of students sharing their projects with author Shelley Frazier Mickle will perhaps convey the scope and excitement of this project.*

*I divided the project into 4 chapters, Wanna Piece of Me, Literature You Love, Showcase of Original Writing, and Projects, Lists, Art, etc. I've also seen this project set up to cover core subjects in school, literary genres, themes, et al. It's useful for capturing all kinds of learning and synthesizing. **Chapter 1 Wanna Piece of Me can stand alone and you will find explanations and guides for it in a separate section of the website.***

## Guideline Summary

Here are the guideline for this major project which showcases you, your ideas and thinking, your favorite literature, and your best personal writing and projects thus far in your life. The Antholio will demonstrate your ability to engage in long-term projects, to plan, to choose, to edit to design, to prioritize, to share, to discover, to follow directions, to expand, take chances, to make changes...to grow! You should be left with a super memory book suitable for gift-giving and reprinting if necessary. You should also be left with a sense of satisfaction and awe at your accomplishments during the time in your life you worked on this project and have an even greater sense of who you are and what you believe at critical times of your life.

### Chapter 2: Literature that you love included

- An annotated list of your five favorite books from early childhood
- Five pieces or excerpts from fiction that stir memories or emotions with brief explanations of why this happens with each piece
- Five pieces or excerpts from non-fiction that evoke memories or emotions with brief annotations about your reactions and feelings about each
- At least ten poems that rock your world with annotations about why
- At least five pieces or excerpts of literature from any prose genres that show special creativity, beauty, surprise, power that language can generate. Include brief commentary about what each selection does for the reader.
- At least ten annotated pieces or excerpts from literature that makes you think deeply about something, re-think something, or that challenge your mind. At least one sample should come from each of the following pairs: essay or speech, poem or drama, biography, autobiography or memoir, journal or letter, novel or short story
- At least three pieces of any genre that deal with the power and importance of language with comments on why you selected each piece.

### Chapter 3: Showcase of Your Own Writing (not also in Wanna Piece of Me) annotated about why you chose each one

- Your best personal essay
- Your best literary essay
- At least five selected pieces (prose or poetry) that show your ability to use language creatively
- At least three selected pieces that show your ability to think, reason, reflect, influence (any genres...journaling, letters, articles, poems, written speeches, essays)

**Chapter 4:** *The final chapter we included was for projects (service and/or special interests, lists, art, music... passions students wished to include and pursue. This was set up in any way students wanted.* For extra credit I offered the “Brain Buster” which asks them to pick a subject or question that really interests them and collect literature of any genre including quotations or even jokes or songs that relates to the topic. They needed to locate:

- Something from ancient literature (such as mythology of any culture, Biblical or sacred writing, orations, poems (Homer, Native American, etc) ideas from famous philosophers such as Plato, Socrates, Aristotle
- Something from fairy tales or fables from various cultures (Commonly known such as Aesop, Grimm Brothers, etc may be used but feel free to go beyond those.)
- Something from Shakespeare
- Something from modern literature (mid 1800s through present)
- Something very current (newspaper, magazine, websites, blogs, etc)

All collected samples must relate to the topic in some way and be commented on as to what the student discovered about changing (or not changing) viewpoints through time or cultures. This presentation and the findings can be presented in a creative, artistic manner or in a more straightforward time-line type presentation.

#### Things that make this a book:

*Methods of presentation can follow templates for online portfolios or model on various anthologies and portfolios ubiquitous in our world. I had asked students to have the following:*

- An inviting, well thought out title and cover page and a binding and back cover that holds up (many students used notebooks and plastic sheet protectors so they could easily move pages around and protect them and easily add and delete items)
- An inside front cover (well laid out on the page )that includes the title of your antholio, the date(s) it was compiled, and an explanation such as: *A collection of favorite, significant literature, philosophy, music, and art along with the best personal writings and reflections of (your name)*
- An invitation poem or greeting that cleverly welcomes readers to your antholio
- A clear and complete table of contents including titles, authors, page numbers
- Art and illustrations as needed or wanted (dedication, epilogue could be included too)
- An “About the Editor” I gave a template to use but you can model on anything you like from books you are reading. (if wanted, you could add blurbs from “famous sources” praising your antholio...fake, but fun to do)
- I had asked for a few more “academic” things such as indexes and some bibliographic listings but no need to do this since you are doing it for pleasure, not for me. However anyone out there doing this electronically could send me a copy or your project; I’d love to see it.

#### Terms to know:

- Antholio: a coined, blended word that describes the combination of a Personal Literary Anthology and Showcase Writing Portfolio.
- Annotated: explained with brief comments or notes
- Genre: Type of literature (basically poetry or prose fiction and non-fiction each of which has many sub-genres) No need for all my notes here; let Google or your teachers help you as needed.

Here’s a link to digital portfolio compiling:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1CWG2daM7Y&feature=related>

