

## **CHS Culminating Project Program**

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### **Choosing an ACADEMIC ELECTIVE BEST WORKS Artifact and Writing a Justification**

Academic Elective BEST WORKS come from your Science (AP Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Marine Biology, Physics, Chemistry), Mathematics (AP math courses), World Language, or Social Studies (Intro and AP Psychology) electives. (If you do not have an academic elective this semester, you can choose another work from a general elective course). Look for an assignment you've completed where you think you've done a good job demonstrating the five State Goal 3 and 4 traits listed in your Resource Guide, including:

- your ability to **analyze**
- your ability to **use knowledge** of this elective subject
- your willingness to put forth consistent **effort** and plan well
- your **responsibility**
- **skills** that you can **apply** and use in the real world

You may use Academic BEST WORKS you've created in the past, but **no further back than ninth grade**.

Once you select the work you want to write a justification for, make sure that your name, your teacher's name, and the course name are clearly visible on the artifact. If the artifact is a speech/debate, artwork, video, or presentation, describe what you did, in writing, and attach the assignment grade sheet, if possible. (If the artifact is a test or other assignment the teacher does not want to release, use the "Best Work/Quiz Test" FORM, which you can download from the CPP website at: <http://www.upsd.wednet.edu/ccp/>)

Using the UPSD BEST WORKS FORM your cohort leader gives you (which can also be downloaded from the website), write about the five traits demonstrated in your artifact. Attach your BEST WORKS justification form to your Academic Elective BEST WORK, and put it in your portfolio, like the sample, below.

## Academic Elective Best Work: EXAMPLE OF ASSIGNMENT

John Doe AP Psychology  
Mrs. Holmstrom  
October 19, 2005

### AP Psychology Essay Answer: Neuroscience Test

If an earthquake occurred while we were at school, our sensory neurons (part of the body's peripheral/somatic division of the nervous system) would transmit auditory and visual information to the spinal chord where it would then be carried by interneurons up to the brain. Here the messages would be sorted out by the thalamus (located in the forebrain), and sent to the appropriate areas in the brain for processing. The temporal lobe and more specifically Wernicke's area, would translate the auditory information, allowing you to recognize the sound of the alarm going off and comprehend instructions your teacher might be giving. The hippocampus (located in the limbic system) would also play a role in this as its storage of memories would help you to recognize these sounds and also recall what you are supposed to do: duck and cover. The frontal lobe in your cerebral cortex would also be working away as you attempt to apply logic to the situation and make decisions about what to do. Once you have decided to, say, crouch under your desk, signals to do so would be sent from the motor cortex, down the spinal chord over descending pathways, to motor neurons (which are part of the peripheral nervous system/somatic division), which would stimulate skeletal muscle contraction, allowing for movement.....(etc).

## Academic Elective Artifact: SAMPLE BEST WORKS JUSTIFICATION

Write justifications on the BEST WORK justification form your cohort leader gives you. Reference you Resource Guide, and handout entitled "Evidence of State Three/Four Traits" for more ideas about what to write.)

**SAMPLE:** I earned a "5" on this essay answer, the highest score for an AP essay answer. I demonstrated the following:

**ANALYSIS:** This essay demonstrates my analysis skills well because I explain how the parts of the nervous system work together. I don't just know what the terms mean; I show I know how they work to create an action. In order to answer this question, I had to figure out how the nervous system would react to a real threat, and then explain step by step how the nervous system would react.

**KNOWLEDGE:** This artifact shows I can use my knowledge of parts of the nervous system to explain different aspects of human behavior. For example, I show I have knowledge of the frontal lobes by choosing to have them perform logic; I show knowledge of what the sensory neurons' function is by having them transmit auditory and visual information.

**EFFECTS OF EFFORT:** I demonstrated consistent effort and good planning/organization when preparing for this essay. I studied every night for a week, and also used our psychology website. In addition, I practiced writing hypothetical essay answers beforehand and applying my knowledge of the nervous system to real-life situations.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** I never missed a day of class during this unit. I also completed my homework on time, and kept to my study schedule even though I wanted to stop at times. I took notes in class and reviewed them each night.

**APPLICATION/PERFORMANCE:** When I'm an adult I may not end up being a doctor. But I will be able to use my knowledge of the nervous system in a number of ways, including observing my family members, myself, and my co-workers for signs of illness or malfunction. I'll also be able to draw on this knowledge when I'm trying to understand other people's behavior, and better understand people who have brain damage, such as elderly neighbors suffering from dementia.