English 8/English 8H Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Identity/Self Research**

What make us who we are? What makes me the same—or least similar to—others? What makes me different? How am I uniquely me? What experiences do I wish to seek out that will best fulfill and/or further develop my sense of self?

You may already have been thinking about these and other identity-related questions as you read your selected short stories and as you write in your journal—and probably as you make decisions about your goals, and the path you want to take to achieve those goals.

You will seek out answers to an identity-related question that is important to you—a question about some aspect of your identity, past, present, and/or future. Below are some questions that might get you thinking. You may choose one of these as a Research Question, or come up with your own. However, your question needs to be specific enough to point your research in a definite direction.

* How does my use of social media affect/shape my own sense of personal identity?
* How does media affect my self-image/body image?
* How do my personal choices and styles reflect or shape my identity (dress, food, appearance)?
* How much of my identity comes from my gender/ethnicity/class/culture? Do these factors help or hinder my search for identity?
* How does family support my identity vs. how family blocks or interferes with my identity development?
* How do my loyalties and allegiances define who I am? What gets sacrificed in my pursuit of self-identity? (Family, religion, country, friends, and/or values/beliefs).
* What determines who we are, nature or nurture? In other words, are we born “hard-wired” to be a certain person, or do we learn to become who we are?
* What would being “self-actualized” look like for me, and how do I know?
* How does society/media use “profiling” to define me/how can I resist being “profiled”?
* What career path fits best with my core values and personality type, and how do I know that path is best?
* How do intergenerational differences affect my choices about who I want to be?
* Can my dreams stand up to reality? What happens to my sense of self if the answer is “No”?

**Required pieces**

**Proposal** – A 250-300 word proposal that states your research question, the rationale for your question (WHY it is important to you), WHAT you hope to learn, and HOW you plan to find answers.

**Annotated Bibliography**—A list of 6-10 sources that you discovered and consulted in your research process, along with brief summaries and explanations of how these sources were helpful in answering your research question. Sources may include personal interviews that you conduct with those knowledgeable about the subject, articles, poems, songs, books, surveys, or other media. Please use MLA format for all entries. We will provide models to help you create your annotated bibliography.

Annotated bibliography must include at least:

**--one short story we have read (“The Door,” “Araby,” “A&P,” “A Very Old Man…,” “The Storm,” “Everyday Use”)**

**-- one poem**

**--one article**

**--one personality test**

**--one piece of other media (song, film, artwork, etc.)**

Use the space below to “map out” your proposal.

 **PROPOSAL PLANNER**

PROPOSED “I”-SEARCH QUESTION:

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RATIONALE (WHY is this question important to you? What do you ALREADY know about this topic? HOW did you arrive at this particular question?)

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WHAT YOU HOPE TO FIND or THINK YOU WILL DISCOVER

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PROCESS (HOW will you go about researching? What kind(s) of sources might be most helpful? WHO might be helpful to talk to about your question?)

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Use the guidelines below to revise edit your research proposal.

* Typed 250-300 words—use the headings to organize your proposal.
* Proper heading (MLA format)—Name, teacher, class period, date.
* Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced
* As always, edit for spelling and grammar—no comma splices or sentence fragments are used!
* Use both formal tone and word choice. Use your best academic language.

Typed proposal due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_