Brainstorming Activity: Make It Personal

Task: Use the graphic organizers below to brainstorm ideas for your project.

Part One

Word Association Write your project's theme, unit topic, prompt, or guiding question in the space below. Then, set a timer for 3 minutes and write down as many related words or ideas as you can think of in the space below. Don't worry about organizing your thoughts yet—just get your ideas on paper!
Theme/Unit/Guiding Question:

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Part Two

Class Connection

Consider the ideas you generated during the brainstorming exercise above. What connections do you see between those ideas and what you've been learning in class? Think about topics you've already explored, questions you still have, and anything you'd like to learn more about. Set a timer for three minutes and write down anything that comes to mind in the space below.

Your class:

STOP

Before you go any further, consider the ideas that you wrote down above. Do any of them feel like they could be ideas you might want to explore further in your writing or project? If so, circle them before continuing.

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Part Three

Make It Personal

Think about your life in four categories: places, relationships, hobbies and interests, and things you've learned. Use the guiding questions in each box to brainstorm connections between your life and your project. Set a timer for 3 minutes and write down as many ideas as you can.

Places What places are important to me? Where do I spend my time?	**Relationships** Who are the important people in my life? How do I want others to see or remember me?
Hobbies/Interests What am I interested in and what do I do in my spare time?	**Things I've Learned** What are some things I've learned this year in classes, books, watching tv, etc?

STOP

Before you go any further, consider the ideas that you wrote down above. Do any of them feel like they could be ideas you might want to explore further in your writing or project? If so, circle them before continuing.

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Part Four

Project Ideas Review all of your brainstorming from Parts 1-3. Identify at least three possible topics for your project. Your ideas can be related, but each should be specific enough to stand on its own and broad enough to explore throughout the project.
1.
2.
3.

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