

Your Life on Earth: Philosophizing Purpose and Place in the 21st Century

This project was an exploration of our personal philosophies based on topics like transcendentalism, individualism, eudaimonia, existentialism, the absurd, angst, alienation, autonomy, and authenticity. We used these to follow our individual explorations into what we believe, and what we think about other's beliefs. I focused on existentialism in my writing and art piece. I wanted to portray going through an existential crisis and what questioning your life would look like. I focused on the essential question, what is the purpose of (your/human) existence? Throughout my poem, I raised the question of what life's purpose is and how things we think we need/want affect us in the long run. I got my inspiration for my project from many different places. I originally picked the form of a poem for my writing piece because I loved how I was able to interpret poems we read in class in many different ways. Through my poem, I laid out a theme, but it allows the reader to interpret each message in their own way. For my collage, I saw a previous collage that was made in Sara's humanities class last year. That collage had pictures that corresponded with the writing piece, and the artist had a theme of sunflowers throughout it. I did the same thing where I corresponded my pictures with certain lines in my poem. I also printed out 4 different types of wilted flowers and laid them out throughout my collage.

During this project, I learned a lot about the different philosophical themes and how they play into our human lives. For example, alienation is when you just blend into the crowds. It's when you can't take up a project or career path that hasn't been predefined or pre-designed. We as humans struggle with this every day, but most of the time either don't realize it or just don't care. Personally, something that I learned about myself during this project was that I feel a strong need to build and follow my own path. A path that I can struggle on, and find success on, not one or the other. This is based on the idea of alienation and authenticity. Through this project, I learned that authenticity is the way out of alienation. It is carving your own life path and making your own life choices. But through all that, being able to take the blame and not push it on others.

One huge idea that I still struggle with is how to make my life one that matters. I know that as long as I'm happy with who I am and what I'm doing it shouldn't matter what others think, but for me it does. The question of what I truly want to do as a career and/or hobby is also raised. This is a huge thing for me because there are so many different things I like to do, so how will I know which one will make me the happiest as

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well as give me a comfortable life. Through this project, I was able to get insights about similar struggles that people share, but I still wonder how similar our struggles are even though every single one of us is so different. There are so many questions that I have about myself and humans in general. I feel I demonstrated some of those questions in my poem. I ask what the purpose of life is, why we feel the need to drown for money, why we drive ourselves away from each other, why some strive for making other people or forces more proud of them than they are, and even why we worry about death instead of focusing on the moment, on our very alive selves.