Name: _____ Date: _____

Writing Prompt

While Emerson and Thoreau lived and wrote in a very different time, their ideas and values continue to shape how people live meaningful, deliberate lives today. Who do you know or know of that could serve as a modern example of living a deliberate life? Choose an individual who embodies key values of Transcendentalism through their actions, choices, and experiences. This individual can be a public figure—a musician, athlete, artist, writer, activist, fashion designer, etc.— or someone connected to you personally—a grandparent, parent or guardian, sibling, family member, friend, or community member. Create an informational slideshow (4-6 slides) that explains how this individual is a modern transcendentalist. Your slides should:

- Provide background/biographical information about the individual
- Explain at least 2–3 transcendental values they embody with evidence
- Incorporate at least two quotations from Emerson and/or Thoreau that clearly connect to your individual's values
- Provide a concluding statement explaining what this individual teaches us about living deliberately today

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Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric

11th–12th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but significant misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate

Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Organization • Includes an introduction statement/paragraph that introduces the topic with an informative and insightful thesis • Groups together related ideas, concepts, and information logically with elements building on one another to create a unified whole • Uses varied transitions and syntax to link ideas and sections, clarify relationships between ideas, and create cohesion	4 3 2 1	
Text Features • Includes formatting elements (headings, subheadings), graphics (illustrations, figures, tables) and/or multimedia to help audience understand the topic • Integrates text features thoughtfully and effectively, using them to enhance the audience's understanding of the topic	4 3 2 1	
Conclusion • Provides a concluding statement/section that summarizes the main ideas of the topic and thoroughly reflects on the implications/significance of the topic	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
Evidence • Develops the topic with a variety of information such as facts, concrete details, extended definitions, quotations, or other examples • Selects the most significant and relevant evidence that shows deep understanding of the topic and is tailored to the audience's level of knowledge	4 3 2 1	

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Explanation • Thoroughly explains how the evidence connects to and supports the topic, demonstrating sophisticated reasoning and deepening the audience's understanding	4 3 2 1	

Language	**Rubric Score**	**Notes**
Style • Maintains formal language and an objective tone while also considering the task, audience, and purpose • Uses precise, domain-specific language as well as metaphor, simile, and analogy to clearly convey complex ideas	4 3 2 1	
Grammar & Conventions • Uses correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation • Uses proper MLA formatting and citation • Demonstrates consistent use of grade-level grammar and usage	4 3 2 1	

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