

NAME:

DATE:

WHAT IS EXCELLENT WORK?

1. Select an example of work that you believe is "excellent." Think of the work itself, not the individual who has done this work. Some suggestions might be:

- A WORK OF LITERATURE (SHORT STORY, POEM, NOVEL, PLAY)
- A WORK OF JOURNALISM (NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE)
- A WORK OF VISUAL ART (SCULPTURE, PAINTING)
- A PIECE OF MUSIC
- A FILM
- A SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT
- AN INVENTION

2. Explain why you think this work is excellent. Consider the following questions:

- HOW DO YOU DEFINE EXCELLENCE? HOW DO YOU MEASURE EXCELLENCE?
- WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS BY WHICH THIS WORK IS JUDGED?
- ARE THERE MEASURES IN THE FIELD (RECOGNITION, AWARDS, OTHER CRITERIA) THAT HELP TO DETERMINE WHAT WORKS IS BEST? WHO DECIDES?
- DOES EXCELLENCE CHANGE OVER TIME? WILL THE WORK YOU'VE SELECTED BE CONSIDERED EXCELLENT IN ONE HUNDRED YEARS? WOULD IT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED EXCELLENT ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO?

