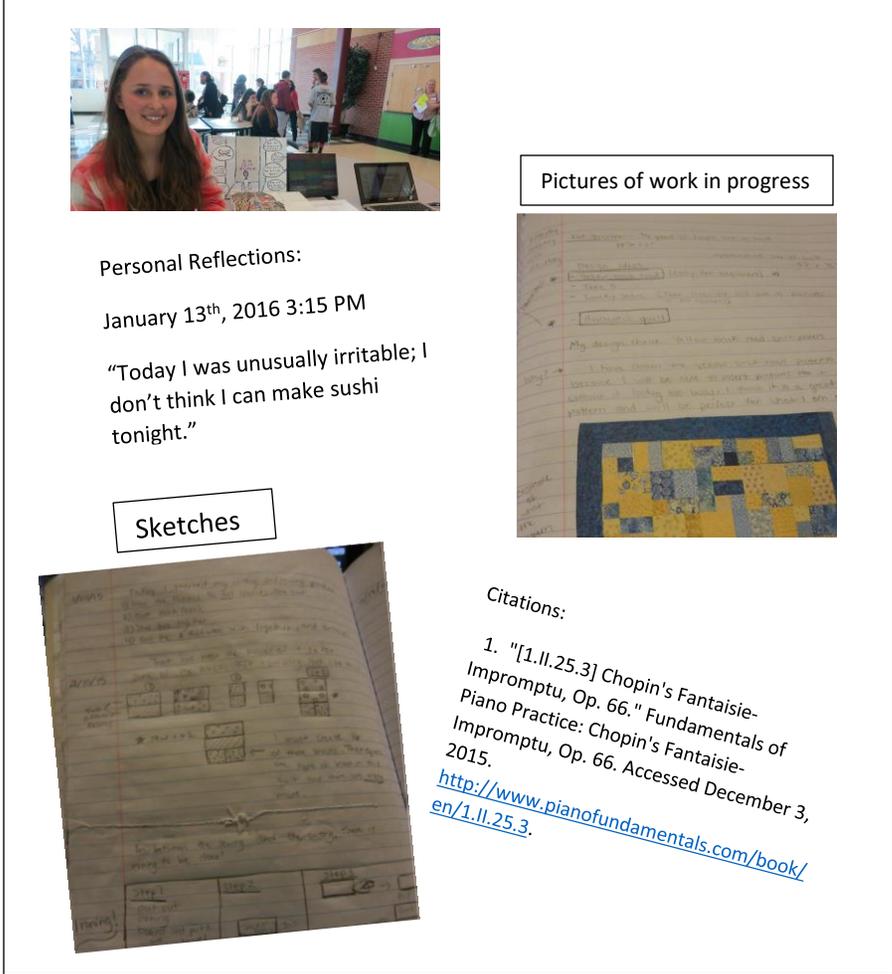


## Summer Essentials for your Personal Project Work!

Although it is not required, getting started on your personal project over the summer months will help you manage the stress of this project next fall. Here are a few tips to guide your first steps:

- 1. Strengthen your goal statement so that it's super clear.** If you weren't thrilled about your first draft, consider revising it, or setting an entirely different goal. A well-developed goal statement includes the following items:
  - A clear and challenging goal that requires you to learn something new; something you are not currently able to do.
  - A global context or a clear answer to the question, "why does doing this project matter?"
  - A description of your personal interest in the topic; where did this interest originate? Why are you drawn to this topic?
  - A listing of the details that will define excellence on this project
  - A list of what you know about the topic now, & what you need to research and learn to finish your project
- 2. START YOUR PROCESS JOURNAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** I can't stress this enough. Find an old notebook, or set up a journal on your computer and start documenting your process... Here are a few things you may want to include in your process journal:
  - Short reflections
  - A timeline for completion
  - Pictures of your work in progress
  - A log of the time invested
  - A list of what you already know and what you hope or need to learn about your chosen topic
  - Questions you need to answer
  - Source information for your bibliography
- 3. If you have a burning question over the summer:**
  - Check the Palmer website under IB and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Personal Project, you'll find lots of helpful resources.
  - Email me with questions: [carolyn.derr@d11.org](mailto:carolyn.derr@d11.org)  
I will get back with you, but there may be a delay.

## Examples of Process Journal Entries:



Pictures of work in progress

Personal Reflections:  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 3:15 PM  
"Today I was unusually irritable; I don't think I can make sushi tonight."

Sketches

Citations:  
1. "[1.II.25.3] Chopin's Fantaisie- Impromptu, Op. 66." Fundamentals of Piano Practice: Chopin's Fantaisie- Impromptu, Op. 66. Accessed December 3, 2015.  
<http://www.pianofundamentals.com/book/en/1.II.25.3>.

- 4. Use the checklist below to help gauge your success:**
  - Are you genuinely excited about your chosen topic? If not, do some more thinking about what you want to learn and do. It's not too late to change your topic.
  - Do you have the resources to tackle your goal?
  - Is this project **safe**? If not, **stop doing it!**
  - Can you complete this project **mostly** independently? If not, try modifying it so you can.
  - Do you have a clear idea of what your finished project will include? If not, go back to the planning stage and map this out! Good luck, and have a **great summer!**