

Name:

Hour:

Biographical Mug/Box

For this project you will be constructing a **ceramic mug** or **box**. The container will be **biographical**, which means it will represent someone specific. You may choose to represent yourself or someone close to you like a relative or friend. (Note: It must be someone you know personally!)

Brainstorming the Idea

1. Make a list of questions you might ask someone you have just met in order to get to know them. We will also discuss this as a class so we can share ideas.
2. Think of who you would like to represent for your mug/box. Choose 5 or more questions from the list we generated and answer them for the person you will represent.
3. Using your responses, sketch out ideas and symbols you could include on your mug/box.
 - Think of how the **form** of the mug/box might be dictated by your ideas. Can you change the outside shape or make the mug/box take on the shape of an object?
 - Use pictures and symbols instead of letters to express your idea.
 - What pieces or forms will need to be attached to create your artwork? Does your design need a handle, lid, feet, etc?
 - How can **texture** enhance your idea?

Constructing your “Biography”

When you have finished brainstorming and have sketched your ideas, you will be ready to construct your mug/box. We will practice **slab rolling** and attaching clay pieces using **scoring and slip**. If your design is a mug, you will need to bring a cylinder (like a soda can) to work around. When the piece is finished it will be dried (**green**) and **bisque fired** in the **kiln**. We will finish the mug/box by **glazing** and firing again.

Vocabulary

Clay: decomposed rock

Wedging: kneading clay to release air bubbles

Slab: rolling out a sheet of clay with even thickness

Coil: using one’s hands to roll clay into a snake-like shape

Texture: how something feels

Incise: textures/patterns carved into clay

Appliqué: clay decoration that is added on

Score & Slip: scratching into clay and applying watered down clay like glue to attach two pieces of clay

Greenware: clay that has dried completely and is ready to be bisque fired (sometimes called **bone dry**)

Leather hard: clay that is stiff, but can still be worked with and carved into

Bisqueware: clay that has been fired once

Kiln: oven used to “fire” clay and make it permanent

Glaze: material applied to clay that gives a glass-like coating when fired