

This I Believe Statement Assignment

Ms. Digges/Ms. Gazin

The Art of the Story

We will be reading selections from *This I Believe II The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* (Edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman, in association with NPR)

We will be exploring a plethora of short essays where notable young men and women describe a story as the foundation for their most treasured belief. These essays will serve as models and inspirations for our own belief essays.

The *This I believe* series originated on NPR radio in the 1950's, and Murrow said in his introduction to the series, "In a way, our project has been an invasion of privacy, like demanding a man let a stranger read his mail." (3)

It is our belief as your teachers that the more you articulate your beliefs and values, the more you come to understand yourself. And the more you listen to your peers' belief statements, the more completely you will understand them.

Objective: To create a powerful statement about your belief system.

1. Reading as many essays as possible from the book, create your top five list. For each choice, articulate, in a sentence, why your choice made the list.

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

2) Now narrow that choice down to your favorite essay and reflect on why you chose that particular belief story. Explain clearly.

3. Where do you think your own beliefs derive from? Dig deep.

4. Do your beliefs differ from your parent's core beliefs? Your friends? Explain.

5. Now, create 3-5 of your own "I believe" **sentence** statements and include them here. Be brief, be personal, and be positive and try to avoid cliches (for example, "I Believe the journey is more important than the destination") (See directions in Appendix A, p. 248)

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

6. Once you have written your belief statements, choose only **one** where you have a vivid accompanying story that shows how you came to this belief. Start with your belief statement and include it here and give a short synopsis of the story that articulates this belief. Be vivid and honest.

7. Using what you have planned out here, write a 350-500 word belief statement.