

Guiding Questions for the Mandala Essay

✧ Guiding Questions for the introduction:

- What must I know about you or your life to understand/be introduced to the rest of the paper?
- What story would introduce me to the symbols in your Mandala?
- What message do you want to leave in my mind when I finish your paper? How can you establish that message (theme) here?
- How do you want me to feel at the end of your paper? How can you establish that feeling here?
- How might your connecting design set up an introduction idea?
- What is your paper really about? Is it a struggle? Triumph? Hope? Despair?
- Do you have a unifying theme or message in mind?

✧ Guiding Questions for body paragraphs:

- What is your major idea for this symbol? What is important about it? Why did you choose it?
- Read your last paragraph aloud and then start writing the next paragraph.
- Tell me what you are trying to say in this paragraph. (Scribe while the student is speaking).

✧ Guiding Questions for the conclusion:

- How do all of the symbols in your Mandala come together to create a whole story
- What growth/development did you experience?
- What is the message behind the symbols? How can you make it explicit?