Layperson Summary

College is often thought of as a milestone that transitions an individual from adolescence into adulthood. This stage of life, and the stage that I currently find myself in, can be categorized as a period of rapid development and self-discovery. Most students experience an increase in independence and responsibility during this time as well. As I reflect on my experiences at Pace University, Suffolk County Community College, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, I am able to ask myself; in what ways has my identity has changed? And what experiences are responsible for this transformation? The purpose of this portfolio is to apply the theme of metamorphosis to all aspects of my identity, specifically focusing on the past four years of college with emphasis on being a transfer student. To support my theme I will be using psychologist Jeffrey Arnett’s ‘theory of emerging adulthood’ as my theoretical framework.

The ‘theory of emerging adulthood’ proposed by psychologist Jeffrey Arnett will serve as my theoretical framework as it conveys the stage of life that I currently find myself in. Arnett defines ‘emerging adulthood’ as the as that uncomfortable, in-between transition from adolescence to adulthood that occurs between ages 18-25. Most teenagers who graduate high school no longer consider themselves adolescents, but have not yet reached the maturity or responsibility level to be considered an adult. This life stage attempts to define those transitioning individuals, and is very relatable for college students like myself. Using this framework, I will show how my experiences as an emerging adult have influenced my identity.

Overall, I aim to highlight the experiences and challenges I have been faced with, that have shaped me into the scholar citizen I am today. Eight personal artifacts will serve to exemplify these experiences and symbolize my personal metamorphosis. Each of these artifacts has been carefully and thoughtfully selected to represent the unique aspects of my identity. They demonstrate growth and development academically, professionally, and personally. When the theme of human metamorphosis is supported through the use of eight personal artifacts, and the ‘theory of emerging adulthood’ is used to reinforce these themes and ideas, the end result is essentially my identity.