

# Theme vs. Sustained Investigation

## **THEME (YOU DON'T WANT THEME-BASED ART)**

**All artwork is based upon things you already know.**

Example:

"Things I am scared of:"

Snakes---(You already knew you were afraid of snakes. You did not have to investigate this.)

The dark---(You already knew you were afraid of the dark. You did not have to investigate this.)

Deep water--(You already knew you were afraid of deep water. You did not have to investigate this.)

The unknown--(You already knew you were afraid of the unknown. You did not have to investigate this.)

Mean people--(You already knew you were afraid of mean people. You did not have to investigate this.)

If a student did an artwork about each one of these, they would all be separate artworks that did not build on each other. That means the sustained investigation did not guide the artworks.

## **SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION (YOU DO WANT ART BASED ON A SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION)**

**The artwork is based on things you had to think about and research.**

Example:

Come up with a question you really can investigate--something you don't already know.

Artwork #1--led to new discoveries and became the basis for 5 more artworks--(just saying 5 more artworks, could be 3 more, could be 4 more--doesn't have to be 5).

Artwork #7--led to new discoveries and without making #7, you never could have come up with your idea for artworks 8-11.

This is what it means when it says that the sustained investigation question guides the artwork.

### **Examples of questions that you don't already know the answer to are:**

How have my fears impacted my life?

How can I become less codependent?

How can I set healthy boundaries in a relationship?

How can I grow from past struggles?

Why do we judge ourselves so harshly?

How can I improve my mental health?