

**Self-Concept, Self-Control, and Self-Presentation: A Self-Portrait**

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**Self-Concept, Self-Control, and Self-Presentation: A Self-Portrait****Introduction**

In choosing pictures to represent myself as a whole, I found that I was drawn to the images that depicted me as a fun, loving person. I chose photos that I believe represent the best in me. Many of the photos are with others; I think that I am most authentically myself when I am with people I love. Though I do not have to worry about self-presentation when I am by myself, I do not think that I see myself wholly through the introspection that takes place when I am alone.

After choosing my 12 photos, I categorized them into six pairs. The first group represents me as an academic. The next shows me as a friend. The third pair shows me as a member of various groups. The fourth pair is me as a performer, and the fifth is me as a family member. The final pair shows me as an individual.

**The Academic**

The photos in this pair show how I present myself as a scholarly person. One of the photos shows me and some classmates posing with Rick West, the mayor of Chesapeake, for a program called Mayor's Youth Day. The other photo depicts me and some classmates posing with Mae Jemison, the first black woman to go to space, at The Chesapeake Forum. In these photos, I am wearing professional attire, posing with good posture, and looking directly at the camera with a polite smile. These photos accurately represent how I present myself in the presence of important people. I look confident, respectful, and happy to have been given these opportunities.

**The Friend**

These photos easily represent my favorite part of myself. In the first of these, I am dressed for a spirit day at school with my friends, posing naturally with a big, genuine smile. I

remember this day as the photo shows it: fun, happy, and just a little bit odd. The second photo shows me and some friends from college dressed up as ghosts in a park. Though this was only the first time I met them, it depicts a very genuine moment where we all were being our true selves. I believe that these photos show my true self because I do not have to perform in front of my friends. They simply accept who I am, as weird as that may be, because they are the same; our identity is a shared one because of the time we spend together.

**The Group Member**

These photos show me as a member of different groups. The first depicts me and some friends posing with some of our Old Dominion spirit wear after all being accepted to the Perry Honors College. When we became members of this group, we gained some more commonality and shared identity. Group membership determines my behavior; as a member of the honors college, I have more requirements and opportunities that help me identify with other members of this group. The second photo shows my bowling team holding certificates from winning a tournament. Because we all won the tournament that day, we have that shared experience that helps shape who we are.

**The Performer**

The photos in this category are of me and castmates from a high school play. One is of the whole cast, in costume and onstage. The other is of some of us at rehearsal having a fun time just being kids. Putting these two photos together shows the duality of performance; half of it is a professional setting where we must accomplish the task at hand, and the other half is an experience that brings out the fun in a person. Though theatre is not the only performance I have done, as I am also a pianist, I think that these photos most accurately represent the two sides of being a performer.

**The Family Member**

As a family member, I see myself as fun and loving. One of the pictures is of me and my parents at the Ted Constant Convocation Center after my graduation. We all look so happy and proud of where I have gotten in life. The other photo shows me and my sister sitting on a bench in the Appalachians on a day trip. We are laughing in the photo, probably at something one of my parents said. I am very happy with my family. They help shape who I am, and I find that we are all very alike.

**The Individual**

The final photos show who I am by myself. The first is a senior photo where I am standing in a field of flowers and smiling into the camera. This photo shows the innocence and pure joy that I experience independent of others. It has bright colors and a soft sunset in the background that I feel represent me very well. The second photo is from the day I got my cap and gown and decided to take pictures on campus at ODU. I am standing on the roof of the parking garage, holding my cap from blowing away in the wind. The new education building can be seen in the background. My smile seems to show my happiness in the phase of my life that has just ended and the excitement for the next phase.

**The Self-Portrait**

Although I tried to pick the pictures that would give the best representation of who I am, I may have just chosen the ones that represent who I wish to be all the time. There are no photos that show me in my darkest times, and I would not want to look back at those times if there were photos anyway. While these are accurate depictions of myself, they do not show the whole story. Everyone has different versions of themselves for different situations; I simply chose the best versions for this assignment.