

Student descriptions of their own personality masks.

#1 Upper left. The first thing I drew was part of the Taiwanese flag, as a sign of my heritage. Flowing down my face as warm water does while you are in the shower. On the other side in Chinese lettering it says, "I am a Chinese American", or literally, "I am Chinese American, half mix." I drew a pair of B-boy sneakers over one eye to indicate my break dancing skills. A *DJ* turntable, or the instrument I play and enjoy. It's also my job money on weekends. The money symbol above connects to the *DJ* thing. Also, I like money. The cigarettes show that I smoke, and the e-address shows my interest in computers and my future. The name on it is my nickname, that is, in Chinese. Down my nose it says nineteen, for my age. The male symbol 'is to show obviously that I am a male. The one white eye and the other black one means that between the two you can see all the gray in the world.

#2 Upper right. The glitter around the eyes represents how important my eyes are to me. Since I can't hear through my ears I must hear through my eyes. The half red lip represents that I have two different languages, English and sign language. The red part is English, because you have to speak through your lips in order to be understood. But on the white side, you don't need the lips, you use hands instead, for sign language. The three stars at the top indicate my passions for sports, dance and the theater. The stars show that you can do anything, and I have reached them. I know I can do it again, in different things than those three, if I give it my all. The variety of colors that blend show that I am open minded, a person of different likes and I like to try many new things. I've gone back packing two times. I've ridden the highest roller coaster. I've laid outside staring at the stars, and I would like to do sky-diving ... well, maybe that's a little extreme.

#3 Lower left. My personality mask consists of an assortment of words, colors and symbols to represent myself and who I am as a person. My family has influenced me in many ways and my family tree is represented on the mask. My family consists of five people; my Mom and Dad, my sister, my brother and I. My family is a very close one and we are all there for each other. I was raised with certain morals and beliefs, and I carry those with me and will for the rest of my life. My multiracial heritage has been a major part of my personality. The half brown side of my mask represents my African heritage. The fair colored side represents my Dutch, French, Scottish, Welsh, Irish and English heritage's. The three different colored feathers at the top of the mask represent my Native American heritage, the Sioux, the Cherokee and the Apache tribes. Being of such a diverse cultural background, I have had some struggles that most children would never have. I've had to stand up for myself when teased by other children because of my light skin or freckles, or the African texture of my hair. I have not, nor will I ever feel ashamed of who I am because of these things. But, I've had obstacles that some others will never encounter. And, I have a strong character because of this. My multiracial heritage is unique and different, and has help shape me into the individual who I am, and who I have yet to become. Throughout my life I have been exposed to the arts, weather it's dancing, theater, or other things. I've been dancing from when I was about 2 1/2yrs old, and I absolutely love it. I've trained with some of the best instructors in the area, and some from other parts of the country. to me dance is not just recreational, but a type of therapy. I'm able to express the emotions I fee It soothes me and brings out new energy from within. I'm thought of as a leader amongst my peers, and I served as Cheer leading captain during football season. At present I am President of the Dance Club here at school. I take the initiative to bring new ideas to the groups I'm involved with, I'm also very

organized, responsible and dependable. School is an important part of my life, and it has been that way for a long time. My parents have instilled in me the importance of education. I know this is one reason why I would like to be a teacher myself, someday. I plan on attending the Univ. of Wisconsin at Madison this coming fall. Molly and Erik are two individuals who know me better than anyone. Molly has been my best friend since elementary school, and has always been there if and when I needed her. However my boyfriend has known me for a little less than two years. Although he hasn't known me as long, he knows me just as well as Molly. He's always by my side if I need help or advice. The crucifix on my mask represents my Catholic faith. It is significant in my life. There are times in my life when I get down on myself and I need someone to talk to, it is then when I turn to God for guidance and reassurance.

#4. Lower right This personality mask a description of me, and how I view my life from my inner self. I think I am a very complicated person with a lot of things going on in my life. Many experiences from the past few years have molded me into who I am today, more than at any other time in my life. My parents had a tough divorce which I didn't think affected me that much, but it did. I miss how close my family used to be, and all the family activities we used to do together. I'm really confused about my life right now, I'm not sure weather I want to hold on to the past or look into the future. I don't know which path to go down, and have no idea where I'll end up. I want the past back, because then I thought I knew what I wanted to do with my life. The future is frightening. But, I guess I would say I'm looking forward to it. Right now I have a lot of thoughts in my head and I need to figure out which path to follow.