

HeLa Triptych Project

(Pronounced trip tic)

The term "triptych" - whose name stems from the Greek for "three folds" - is used in fine art to describe a painting which consists of three parts, usually comprising a larger central panel and two wings that are hinged together so that the wings fold over the centre when closed. Sometimes there is a base, called a predella, below the central panel. These hinged panel paintings were one of the most popular forms of altarpiece art from the medieval era on. We are going to use this form of art to bring together the ideas we have been exploring in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.



1. Decide if your triptych will be biographical or autobiographical.

Biographical – the triptych will be about Henrietta

Autobiographical – the triptych will be about you



2. The three panels or sections will be about *Life, Death and Immortality*. Use your White Paper ideas.

3. For each section or panel, include quotes or visual representations of quotes from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

4. Include HeLa cells. This could be visually or textual.

5. Write a HeLa Triptych Statement – questions to be addressed are on the reverse side.



HeLa Project Triptych Statement

Write a statement about your HeLa Triptych which addresses the questions below.



1. Is your triptych biographical or autobiographical? Why did you choose this approach?
2. How does your White Paper #1 (*What is Life?*) connect to your *Life* section?
3. How does your White Paper #2 (*What is Death?*) connect to your *Death* section?
4. How does your White Paper #3 (*What is Immortality?*) connect to your *Immortality* section?
5. Which quote did you choose for your *Life* section? Why did you choose this particular quote?
6. Which quote did you choose for your *Death* section? Why did you choose this particular quote?
7. Which quote did you choose for your *Immortality* section? Why did you choose this particular quote?
8. How did you include HeLa cells in your triptych? Why did you choose to include them in this way?

