

Name _____

English 4 / Mr. Neff

BEFORE READING THE ARTICLES:

Write: respond to each of the following questions on a separate sheet of notebook paper. Your total responses should be at least half a page, approximately:

Question #1: Summarize what you already know about mental illness:

- **Consider:** What forms are you familiar with? What are their symptoms? Where did you learn this information?

Question #2: If willing, describe your personal experience with mental illness:

- **Consider:** Have you, family, or friends ever experienced any form of mental illness (e.g. depression; bipolar disorder; alzheimer's; schizophrenia; etc.)? What challenges have you or they faced related to it? What triumphs or successes (if any) have you encountered despite it?

Question #3: How have you seen mental illness portrayed in media (film, tv, music, literature)? Give an example or two and explain.

Question #4: For years, people have been fascinated by the "Tortured Artist" stereotype: the idea that people who suffer (often from illness) can turn their suffering into transcendent art, music, writing, etc. Do you think there's any link between creativity—or "genius"—and mental illness, or is this just a dangerous myth?

AFTER WRITING YOUR RESPONSES:

Read: the sources on mental illness. Annotate anything you find *interesting, confusing, strange, or revealing* about the topics within the articles.

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