

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal and Political**

**OPENER:** Analyze these two quotes. What do they mean? Do you agree or disagree, and why?

<p>“The personal is political.” - Feminist slogan of the 1960s/1970s</p>	<p>“The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do.” - James Baldwin</p>

**CLASS ACTIVITY:** Choose a personal narrative to read from the five listed below.

1. “Do Not Accept Nan Check,” Kiese Laymon - <https://medium.com/s/story/do-not-accept-nan-check-a2b31e5a41ae>
2. “Why I Tried to Save My Father, My Dictator,” Karla Cornejo Villavicencio - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/03/opinion/sunday/undocumented-immigrant-father.html>
3. “Racism Is Terrible. Blackness Is Not,” Imani Perry - <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/racism-terrible-blackness-not/613039/>
4. “You Want a Confederate Monument? My Body Is a Confederate Monument,” Caroline Randall Williams - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/26/opinion/confederate-monuments-racism.html>
5. “Why I Speak Up for Black Women,” Megan Thee Stallion - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/13/opinion/megan-thee-stallion-black-women.html>

As you read the personal narrative, list the historic/political topics/issues that arise, which might help people connect with the piece. In other words, what are the themes in the piece that make it more than personal?

Highlight and then paste below your favorite sentence, favorite phrase, and favorite word from the piece, which you will share with a partner.

**INDEPENDENT WORK:** After reading and discussing the personal narrative you read today, reflect on the questions below.

1. What are the purposes of personal narratives?
2. What helps people connect to them?
3. What makes them powerful, creative, and/or significant?
4. Do you have any ideas for what you might write your personal narrative about?