

## **Brain Metaphor: How Do You Imagine the Brain?**

**Your Task:** *To better understand the brain, philosophers and psychologists have often created metaphors to the brain. (A metaphor is a comparison between two unlike ideas or objects).*

*You are tasked with demonstrating your understanding of the brain by creating a metaphor that explains the functioning of the brain. To explain this, you will create a representative art piece that shows how you imagine the brain and write short excerpts that explains your comparison in depth.*

### **Required Aspects**

#### **I Imagine the Brain...**

You will write a sentence that explains your metaphor that compares the brain with another object or idea.

**Artistic Representation of Metaphor:** *You will create an artistic expression of your brain metaphor. This can be a drawing, photograph or anything else you can imagine that helps you explain the functioning of the brain.*

**Neurology Connections:** *You will write three short explanations of how your metaphor represents the different neurological ideas associated with the study of the brain. You should be able to explain how your image represents the brain in three of the following ways...*

- ☞ *Neuron*
- ☞ *Localization of Function*
- ☞ *Brain Plasticity*
- ☞ *Pruning*
- ☞ *Frontal Lobe*
- ☞ *Amygdala*
- ☞ *Hippocampus*

### **Assignment Rubric**

#### **Brain Metaphor**

	<b>A/4</b>	<b>B/3</b>	<b>C/2</b>	<b>D-F/1-0</b>
<i>Metaphor</i>	The metaphor is original and thoughtful.	The metaphor is clear and appropriate.	The metaphor is unclear or has limited relevance to the brain.	The metaphor is not related to the brain or extremely unclear.
<i>Artistic Representation</i>	Artwork is unique & appropriately communicates the metaphor.	Artwork is appropriate & clearly communicates the metaphor.	Artwork is unoriginal or lacks clear relevance to the metaphor	Artwork is not related to the metaphor or is very unclear.
<i>Neurological Connections</i>	Three Connections show clear understanding of the functioning of the brain, are detailed, and unique.	Three connections show clear understanding of the functioning of the brain.	Connections are unclear or not related to proper aspects of neurology.	Connections are missing or extremely unclear.

## **Brain Metaphor: How Do You Imagine the Brain?**

### **I Image the Brain**

*I imagine the brain as the Tualatin High School student body because it is made up of individuals that are always making new connections and is divided by specific groups that have unique roles within the school.*



**Neurons:** *Each student is like an individual neuron. They are constantly communicating and building new connections with the other neurons/students around them. However, unless you are willing to look closely, they often simply blend together.*

**Brain Plasticity:** *The connections that students make fundamentally reshape the school as a whole. The students/neurons are always making new connections that change the makeup of our school on a constant basis. The identity of our school will be different from the morning to the next afternoon. This is an ongoing process as students make connections with the people and ideas that surround them. While each might not feel as though they are directly connected, they do share a common network that bonds them together.*

**Localization of Function:** *Within the student body, there are groups of students with particular roles. For example, ASB helps plan and make decisions, the Robotics Team solves complex problems, and theatre brings artistic flare. Together, they make up a healthy and functioning student body. However, without one of them, the entire school would be a fundamentally different place.*