**Honors English 9: Metaphor Speech**

As you are beginning to see, metaphors are an incredibly useful and powerful figurative language device in both fiction and non-fiction, including movies, poems, and television commercials. For your next assignment, you will brainstorm, write, record, and submit a speech (about 60-90 seconds) explaining how some object (non-living, please!) you find in or around your home is an effective metaphor for you.

In order to find this object, you’ll need to be extremely careful to avoid items that are symbolic of you. A symbol is going to be an object that has some important personal relevance for you—a keepsake, a treasured item, something that you immediately think about saving if you home was on fire. Don’t consider these objects.

Instead, you will most likely be scouring your home for an ordinary, everyday item. Why? Because metaphors are surprising comparisons between *unlike* things—things that seem on the surface to have nothing in common but actually do.

Whatever object you choose, it must reveal 3-4 personality characteristics (emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual) about you. Your speech cannot draw similarities based on shared physical characteristics (weight, height, hair color, etc.). If you choose the right object and write a clear speech, you will achieve the primary goal of metaphor: to express an familiar idea in a refreshing way.

This assignment will be worth 30 points which will be awarded on:

1. The physical presentation and appropriateness of the object you choose
2. The quality of your assertion, examples, and explanations in your speech
3. The timely submission of your recorded speech and written copy of it

So, how best to begin the process of choosing an object for your speech? Let’s start at the final product—Mr. Spear’s recorded speech—so that you can chart a path between the beginning and the end of this process. You’ll find a recording of it on Schoology and/or his website.