In response to the letter from the His Majesty, the King of France you are tasked to complete the following: create a portfolio that represents Leonardo Da Vinci's best work plus a letter of recommendation in which you analyze da Vinci based on IB learner profile traits.

From, Leonardo’s assistant Nikasha Chaudhary

October 23, 1516

You’re Majesty,
I am Nikasha Chaudhary assisting Leonardo Da Vinci and I am proud to receive your letter as you choose me to do this valuable work for you. I and my boss Leonardo Da Vinci are very happy to receive your letter as you picked him to let him join your court.

Leonardo da Vinci is a risk taker. He is a risk taker because he took a big risk for using his new idea of oil paint and water on Last Supper. That painting was painted on dry plaster wall and it was a huge task for him but still he dared and had courage without any fear to try his new idea out on this painting even when church was supporting him but he didn’t back off for using his new idea. He was brave enough to articulate and defend his believes. His second learner profile is that he is an inquirer. He is an inquirer because he develops his natural curiosity for his work for example when he studied anatomy, he was curious and wanted to study more. He showed independence in his learning as he studied about art, science, music, mathematics, anatomy etc. by his own as he is interested in all these things. He enjoys his learning by heart and will keep making and inventing things throughout his life.

Leonardo’s first scarcity is that he is not balanced in his life. He doesn’t understand the importance of intellectual balance in his life. Physically he does nothing to keep him fit. It’s just his work in which he is interested in. He gets frustrated fast when something doesn’t go well. His emotional balance is very less as he can’t control himself for getting frustrated. He is not a person who can achieve personal well-being for themselves and neither for others. It is really hard to give any other Learner profile trait Leonardo is not. So I chose that he is not principled. Well he is principled but not totally as she doesn’t take responsibility for his own actions and the consequences that accompany him like for the painting Last Supper he didn’t own his actions as the painting started coming out after some time. Except of this he is totally principled as he is honest, with a strong sense of fairness.

Now I will close my letter by saying that I think you should let Leonardo Da Vinci join French Court as he is very talented in his work and he is trustworthy. He has some really great designs for machines which could totally help you for wars. I think he is the best for this job.

Yours sincerely,
Nikasha Chaudhary
Leonardo da Vinci is an artist, musician, scientist, and inventor. He is most famous as painter, architecture, sculpture and inventor. He is the famous artist of today. His paintings are most analyzed and studied. Leonardo Da Vinci was born on 15th April 1452 in Italy probably in Vinci. He is the illegitimate child of his parents so he didn’t get to use his family name as in result his name became Da Vinci (the city name where he was born). This was a disadvantage as many people won’t hire him for job. But still he got famous by his hard work and invented some really famous and great paintings, sculptures and machines.

**Part 1: The artist**

There are many paintings by Leonardo which are famous but only some of them survived till today. The Last Supper is one of them. This painting was made on the wall of refectory means dining hall on the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie near Milan in Italy. This painting was made during 1495 - 1498. Leonardo made this painting using Pitch, Tempera, Gesso, and Mastic mixing them with oil paint and painting it on the dry plaster wall. As oil and water never mix together well the same way this painting mixture didn’t work well. The painting started deteriorating soon and while Leonardo was alive. The painting symbolizes Jesus in the scene of Last Supper with his disciples. I selected this painting for Leonardo's portfolio because it shows that how risk taking and also how he think and use his new methods in his work. He knew that the oil and water never go well together but still he decided to use those materials as he wanted to make something unique and special with his new ideas. He took a big risk as it was a very important task for him but still he experimented his ideas on that painting. He painted out his new thoughts and ideas rather than just doing the same thing every time. He was improving his techniques of art as he made more and more paintings and also improved the proportion and added some expressions on faces. He started studying and recognizing the 3D look from close and then painted them out which makes the paintings look real.
The Madonna of the Carnation was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci during 1478 – 1480. This is an oil painting on wood. The paintings purpose is to show the naked Jesus sitting on his mother’s lap the young Virgin Mary. Virgin Mary is holding a flower in her left hand and sitting in a room with two windows on her each side with a view of trees and mountains outside. In Christian art during Middle Ages, Jesus (Child) and Madonna was a common subject for art. This painting is considered as one of the Leonardo’s first autonomous works. This is the only painting by Leonardo which is always display in Germany. I selected this item because I think it’s creative and a good money maker as people in Middle Ages and in early Renaissance liked these paintings as it was the common subject and wanted to buy them. This piece of art is creative because Leonardo makes it look interesting by the background, clothes which Madonna is wearing and items kept near her like flower pot and the flower which she’s holding. He added some brief details to characters as the clothes have the folds and shades. The main characters are highlighted as the other background is dark. But there are some problems with characters and their body proportion. The child’s face is not correct size for the body and also the tummy is too big. There is no eye contact between mother and child while child is looking up and mother is looking down. There are only some minor problems otherwise this painting is a money maker and a very creative painting.

This painting is called Virgin of the rocks. It was made in 1483 – 1486 on oil on panel and then transferred to canvas. The motif of the paintings is a traditional meeting between the Jesus and John the Baptist in Egypt. The Madonna is at the center of the portrait sitting with angels. The background is set against a distant landscape of mountains, water and rocks. I choose this painting for da Vinci’s portfolio because I think the painting is beautiful and it shows the real happenings of Jesus time and thus it creates curiosity to know more and more about the era of Jesus. It shows how Leonardo was a thinker in his work as he just has information about the meeting as it’s written in Bible and he created the background so beautifully that looks like natural and thought how Madonna and other angels were sitting and what were their positions. He applied his thinking skills critically and creatively. He thought of all those things in his brain and then came out with this beautiful painting.

Part II: The Scientist
The Vitruvian Man was drawn by Leonardo around 1487 and it was a drawing on a paper with pen. It’s a sketch of a man in two positions in same picture. In this work Leonardo used both image and words to express the ideas of Vitruvius. Vitruvian was first century architect. He discussed proper symmetry and proportion of human body. I selected this item for Leonardo’s portfolio because it shows how knowledgeable he was in his work. He showed the changing perspective in his work. His Vitruvian man is still in structure but active in its appearance of moving like living man. He studied anatomy to get correct proportion of human body so he can improve his drawings and paintings. He developed his knowledge about human’s body.

This is a drawing by Leonardo when he was studying dissection of a human skull. This shows his efforts to examine the structure of the skull and his passionate goal for geometrical proportionality. This is why I choose this piece of work to show how passionate and curious he was towards his work. He showed the arrangements of teeth in jaw. He drew every tooth separately to make it look clearer. The shape of the head and eyes are very much like the real shape of our skull. Everything is proportioned and the drawing shows how closely and deeply he studied the formation of human skull. By his drawing we can totally say that he was a great artist as his art has depth and reality in them. He enjoyed his work and learns it by heart.

After studying about humans body proportions, Leonardo’s curiosity towards human body made him study about internal organs of body. This image is from his notebook where he studied about human fetus. His studies about embryology begin during 1510-1512 when proofs show that he was able to dissect one human’s fetus. Leonardo was the first man to show the human fetus properly in its correct position inside the womb. I choose this evidence for his portfolio because I think he is open minded as he didn’t follow the religious believes, he
followed and studies what he saw and what he thought is reality rather than just believe in church saying. He also didn’t disagree or say anything against church because he knew how to respect others views and feelings. He wanted to explore the world more and more which he did but in his way without hurting anyone or without creating problems for himself. The church supported his talent too.

Part III: The Inventor

Leonardo da Vinci made a parachute by canvas and wood around 1470s in Italy. It was a triangular parachute with linen covering a wood flame. This invention was never tested by him or when he was alive. He made this parachute by thinking if someone is stuck somewhere and is he/she is at height then they can jump from there and can have a safe landing. I choose this item because I think he is caring as he think of others and thought of a new idea that if someone is in danger and they are at least 23 feet high from ground than they can jump from there and save themselves without any injuries.

Da Vinci invented a revolving bridge for Duke Sforza. The bridge was normally meant to be used for wars and armies purposes. The bridge was built in a way that can be easily and quickly packed up and transposed for use of armies on the move to pass over water bodies. He made the bridge to be able to swing across a moat or stream and set down to allow soldiers to pass. The device had wheels and combined rope-and-pulley system to have an easy transport
and quick service. Leonardo was creative in his ideas as we can see by looking at his bridge and parachute. He likes to make new machines and which are really useful in wars and for armies and he helped our world a lot by giving us these ideas.

He also invented a robotic knight which was designed for a pageant in Milan. There were many wheels and lots of gears inside the robot which were connected to an elaborate pulley and cable systems. His robotic knight was able to move his head, sitting down, sitting up and lift its visor as he used those tools. Many people assume that it was the very first robot. While all the parts of this robot were never found in his notebook but different pieces which describes knight have been found at some places of his notebook. I think by all these paintings, his studies and inventions prove him a very talented and capable painter, scientist, and inventor.
Work Cited


(http://arthistory.about.com/cs/leonardo/a/last_supper.htm).


(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_Supper_(Leonardo_da_Vinci)).


(http://www.innovateus.net/innopedia/what-leonardos-revolving-bridge-invention).

### Criterion C: Thinking Critically

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement Level</th>
<th>Grade 7 and 8 Assessment Criteria</th>
<th>Task Specific Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The student does not reach a standard described by any of the descriptors below.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>The student:</td>
<td>The student:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- makes a limited attempt to analyse concepts, events, issues, models or arguments</td>
<td>- Makes a limited attempt to explain why they choose examples for the portfolio as the information in their explanations may be missing for many selections and/or largely inaccurate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- makes connections between information in a limited attempt to make simple arguments.</td>
<td>- Identifies learner profile traits in their letter that Da Vinci shows strength and weakness in but does not fully explain their reasoning with evidence most of the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>The student:</td>
<td>The student:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- completes a simple analysis of concepts, events, issues, models or arguments</td>
<td>- Completes a simple analysis of why they choose examples for the portfolio by including a basic explanation for most entries and/or there are frequent errors in accuracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- makes connections between information to make simple arguments.</td>
<td>- Identifies learner profile traits in their letter that Da Vinci shows strength and weakness in and supports their reasoning with evidence some of the time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>The student:</td>
<td>The student:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- completes a satisfactory analysis of concepts, events, issues, models or arguments</td>
<td>- Completes a satisfactory analysis of why they choose examples for the portfolio by including an explanation for each entry. The explanation is usually accurate.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- makes connections between information in order to make valid arguments.</td>
<td>- Identifies learner profile traits in their letter that Da Vinci shows strength and weakness in and supports their reasoning with evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>The student:</td>
<td>The student:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- completes a detailed analysis of concepts, events, issues, models or arguments</td>
<td>- Completes a detailed analysis of why they choose examples for the portfolio by including an in-depth and accurate explanation for each entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- makes connections between information to make valid, well-supported arguments.</td>
<td>- Identifies learner profile traits in their letter that Da Vinci shows strength and weakness in and supports their reasoning with detailed evidence.</td>
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## Criterion D: Communicating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement Level</th>
<th>Grade 7 and 8 Assessment Criteria</th>
<th>Task Specific Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The student does not reach a standard described by any of the descriptors below.</td>
<td>The student:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>The student: - tries in a limited way to communicate information and ideas in a style that is appropriate to the audience and purpose. - tries in a limited way to structure information according to the task instructions. - tries in a limited way to create a list of sources of information.</td>
<td>The student: - tries to communicate information and ideas in the letter and portfolio however their writing is often unclear due to many errors in syntax, vocabulary, grammar, and/or spelling. - attempted to organize the portfolio into separate parts, but not into four sections as directed and/or information is mixed up throughout making information hard to locate. - tries to cite sources by listing URLs only (does not follow MLA conventions) and/or cited only some sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>The student: - communicates information and ideas in a style that is sometimes appropriate to the audience and purpose. - structures information sometimes according to the task instructions. - creates a list of sources of information sometimes according to the task instructions.</td>
<td>The student: - communicates information and ideas in the letter and portfolio however their writing is sometimes unclear due to errors in syntax, vocabulary, grammar, and/or spelling. - somewhat organized the portfolio into separate parts, but not into four sections as directed and/or information is mixed up occasionally. - created bibliography but made frequent errors in using MLA citation conventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>The student: - communicates information and ideas in a style that is often appropriate to the audience and purpose. - structures information often according to the task instructions. - creates a list of sources of information often according to the task instructions.</td>
<td>The student: - clearly communicates information and ideas in the letter and portfolio with few errors in syntax, vocabulary, grammar, and/or spelling. - organizes the portfolio into four separate parts as directed. A small amount of information may be mixed up. - created a bibliography but made occasional errors in using MLA citation conventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>The student: - communicates information and ideas in a style that is completely appropriate to the audience and purpose. - structures information and ideas completely according to the task instructions. - creates a list of sources of information according to the task instructions.</td>
<td>The student: - clearly and effectively communicates information and ideas in the letter and portfolio with rare errors in syntax, vocabulary, grammar, and/or spelling. - organizes the portfolio in an effective way with four clear parts to it. It is easy to find information. - created a bibliography with only minor errors in using MLA citation conventions.</td>
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</tbody>
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