Personal Artifact Assignment:

**Students should be able to**

• Identify the methods used by archaeologists to reconstruct the past.

**Find 5 artifacts** (human made objects) that we can use to understand you and/or the people who lived during our period in history.

Think of this assignment like being an archaeologist, and finding an empty room, 1,000 years after the zombie apocalypse. You are human and returning to civilization. You find 5 things in a room and start trying to create the story of what people were like 1,000 years ago (today).

What does my “artifact” say about what people were like in our time?

What does my “artifact” say about our how people spent their time?

What does my “artifact” say about the available technology of the time?

Example: It is sunrise and the streets are empty of life. All I see are heaps of rusted metal. I found a book last week titled “Automotive Technology” and after reading it, I know that these piles of rust and plastic were once called cars. People burned fossil fuels to make them go. What a world that must have been…

I enter a house and kick around the debris on the floor. My foot strikes something solid and sends it skidding through a cloud of dust. I move toward it, excited to find a clue as to the people of this long lost civilization. It is made of plastic, and glass, and metal; this little box. It is thin, about five inches long by three inches wide. I can only guess at what it was used for. These things are everywhere on the ground in this city, so I toss it back to the floor. As far as I can tell. It was a piece of technology, requiring electricity to operate. Like the car outside, it is useless now, but the people of this civilization used them for communication.

These people seem to have liked to move fast. The speedometers in their automobiles register speeds as high as 140 mph. And they seem to have been connected to one another at all times with those little plastic boxes, those cell phones. As far as I can gather, this was an advanced civilization where people relied on speed and communication to exist.