**A Sample IOP Proposal**

**Topic:**

I want to assume the role of Charles Baudelaire giving his defense as his censorship trial. (He did go on trial for offending public morality.) Several of his poems were censored, and he had to omit parts of them from his published works when they were first printed. I will present a selection of the offending poems, specifically highlighting the censored sections.

**What I aim to reveal about the text:**

I will present the offending sections and show how they make perfect sense when understood in the context of the larger poems and broader societal values. I want to present enough historical information about his ‘time’ to show how his poetry should be regarded as art, and not censored. Baudelaire was a poet of ‘shock’; he believed that people had to be shocked out of their complacency, and that it was the poet’s job to do that (*Albatross, Elevation*). He was also a *flaneur*, a man about town, friends with Edouard Manet, Edgar Allan Poe and other artists.

**Structure of the Presentation:**

I will role play Charles Baudelaire as he rises in court to defend his work, and counter the charges against him. I will be in costume, and have written notes to guide my presentation. I will use a power point (not of the era, but useful for the class to see the poems) to highlight the poems with censored sections. Most of my presentation will be my arguments about the poetic value of the censored portions. I will also present briefly the broader argument that it is the artist’s job to push society to examine itself and consider new ways of thinking and acting.

You might want to refer to the “Suggested Activities” section of the IOP handout if you are struggling to come up with an idea.