Hanging Odes and Arabic Calligraphy:
Investigating the Personal

Do Now: On your handout describe a place that is meaningful to you.
- An old playground
- A house you once lived
- A restaurant you visited with family
Describe it in as much detail as you can.

_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Steps for choosing vivid vocabulary:
Sections from Labid ibn Rabi’a’s
Hanging Ode- Mu’állaqa

Part 1
Dung-stained ground
That tells the years passed
Since human presence, months of peace,
Gone by, and months of war,

Replenished by the rain stars
Of spring, and struck
By thunderclap downpour, or steady,
Fine dropped, silken rains.

Part 2
I descended to the plain,
Mare standing like a palm,
Smooth, towering trunk
Thwarting the date cutters.

I drove her on to the pace of an ostrich
And faster,
Until she grew hot
And her bones softened.

Part 3
There are the protectors
When the tribe is pressed,
They are the riders,
They are the rulers.

They are life-spring
To dependents among them,
To those without provider,
When the year grows long,

Your Version:

Part 1 - Return to a Place
______________ground
That tells the years passed
Since ________ , months of ________,
Gone by, and months ________,

Replenished by the__________,
Of__________, and
______________
By ________________, or ____
______________, ____________.

Part 2 - Journey
I descended to ____________,
___________ like ___________,
Smooth, _______________
Thwarting ____________.

I drove her on to the pace of a
____________
And faster,
Until _________________
And ________________.

Part 3 Praise
There are the__________
When the tribe is ________.
They are the ________,
They are the ________.

They are ________
To ________ among them,
To those without ____________,
When the year grows long,

* Choose one space to use your
‘Personal word and include your
description of what it means
here:____________________
________________________________
________________________________
Steps for creating your Arabic Signature: