**Hello old friend – A visit with your tree.**

Idea generation for your quarter 4 independent research project

**Prompt:** Take a moment to reflect on the year. Start with your tree. What changes have taken place since the last time that you visited? What developmental stages are detectible? New leaves? Buds? Evidence of other growth? Do you remember your proposed tree experiment from the fall? What are the components of a good scientific inquiry?

Any scientific inquiry is only as good as the initial question you ask. In many ways it is the part of the process that is the most important but is given the least amount of time. Your goal for the rest of this reflection is to generate a long list of organisms, biological principles or processes or experimental techniques that could provide you ideas for your IRP. Put aside any preconceived idea you may have about what you want to do for your quarter 4 project and focus more on the quantity of ideas that you can create. Take your list and expand on several of your items by trying to think about how you could study/use them. What would your independent and dependent variables be? What are the possible confounding variables? What materials would you need? Do not worry about plausibility during this step; just let the ideas move from your brain to the paper. The list of ideas you generate will be used over the next two class periods.

Return to the classroom with 15 minutes left in class.

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