Option 1: Be a Sculptor

For this assignment I decided to sculpt a magnolia flower with leaves. For this sculpture I used playdough for each parts of the flower. For the stamen I used a yellow playdough. I took a small ball about the size of a thumbnail and rolled it into a ball, then formed a soft point at the top and flattened the bottom so it would stick to the petals. For the petals I used a white playdough. To form the petals I rolled a small ball of dough, pressed it across my palm to spread it and shape it into a rounded petal shape, and then layered them together. For the two leaves I used a dark green playdough and used the same shaping technique that I used to shape the flowers. To get the veins on the leaves, I used a wooden coffee stir stick.
I found making this sculpture easy but a little difficult at first. At first I made the flower petals too thick so they didn’t stand up and curl the way I had pictured in my head, and instead of being perched up they flopped down. I also found it easier to make the petals first and then stick the stamen on it after I was finished with the petals and leaves. Once I made the petals thinner, I found it easier to shape and mold the flowers once I made them thinner. They also looked more like petals rather than an albino succulent.

I decided to make my sculpture the size of my palm so the petals didn’t look too floppy and poorly constructed. The significance to me choosing the magnolia was not only because it the flower I am named after and because it is my favorite flower. The magnolia symbolizes dignity, nobility, womanly beauty and gentleness. I think that a magnolia is one of the most beautiful flowers and symbolizes many beautiful qualities of all women. Growing up I never really cared for the meaning of the flower I was named after, but as of recently I have fallen in love with my name and even more with the flower. The magnolia flower gets bruised easily but the scent is not overpowering and refreshing.

I decided to use playdough to sculpt this flower because just like the flower, playdough can be delicate to handle when you are sculpting with it. As I was forming the petals, I was reminded of how fragile this flower is. If you are too rough, it can get bruised and fall apart, much like the sculpture. If you are too rough with the playdough, it will destroy what you are creating. There are really no limits to playdough when it comes to sculpting. You can create anything that you want, you have the freedom to be
as creative as you want to be with this medium. Creating a sculpture really took my mind off of the stress of anything else that I am going through right now in life and forced me to focus on what I was building. It also gave me a little glimmer to the fun God must have had when he was creating man.