

Critical Creation #3 Guidelines: 4pg Graphic Narrative, ENG 325, Fall 2021

Due: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 by NOON EST to D2L > Assignments

Justin Wigard, wigardju@msu.edu

For this assignment, you will engage in an act of critical creation by creating your own 4pg graphic narrative and 3pg author's statement as a demonstration of your understanding of visual and literary conventions. The purpose of this assignment is for you to showcase your learning to its fullest extent by making a critical product, taking your place among the community of authors and creators we have studied this semester.

1. 4-pg Graphic Narrative related to course themes, texts, and approaches [6pts]

You will create a 4-pg graphic narrative that will be informed by research, have a defined critical purpose, and go through a drafting/revising process. This creation must be related to our course themes of "Graphic Narratives."

You have four options:

- 1) 4-pg Graphic Definition of one critical term from the second half of class:
 - a. Must move beyond definition and offer thoughtful engagement/examples/critiques/demonstrations.
 - b. Key terms to choose from:
Unflattening; Graphic Medicine; Disability; Superhero (connected to Graphic Medicine specifically); Cognition; Memoir; Digital Humanities; Race.
 - c. Integrate quotes/examples *from* our key readings in each of these sections.
- 2) 4-pg Critical Review of one graphic narrative from ENG 325's Graphic Medicine Unit
 - a. 2nd half of *Unflattening*; *Graphic Medicine*; *El Deafo*; *Marbles*; *Fights*; One *COVID Chronicle* comic or *ENTIRE Covid Chronicle* book;
 - b. Must move beyond summary and into analysis of one theme/idea within the narrative (close reading)
 - c. Demonstrate how both visual AND textual elements depict one theme/idea within the graphic narrative.
- 3) 4-pg Graphic Medicine entry:
 - a. Can be an educational comic or a graphic memoir related to healthcare/illness/wellness/therapy; etc.
 - b. Must include at least one credible, scientific/medical source: .gov, .edu, academic articles, etc.
- 4) 4-pg COVID Chronicle entry:
 - a. Should be by you, about you, and about your experiences during the pandemic.
 - b. Include a specific day/month/year stamp if relevant for your comic.

Notes

- Comic **must** incorporate research/articles/primary texts from class.
 - Can be cited within comic or can be cited within the comics essay.
 - I want to see you applying critical frameworks and intentions to these comics, and, see you engage critically with these frameworks in either the comic or writing.
- Each page must use a different layout of some kind.
 - It's okay to use panels, or no panels; colors/B&W/both; don't rely on the same layout over and over.
- **If working in print**, you *must* ink your comics. By inking, I mean the process we have talked about throughout the semester: using a thin black marker or pen of some kind to trace over your lines, letters, and objects. How thin is up to you, but I want you to work on getting these comics to contrast.
- **If working digitally**, make sure to clean up your digital marks, layers, and proofreading. You have the means to erase/polish a little more cleanly. Use it.
- Really, really work to get clean photographs and scans of your comics.
 - Use apps like Adobe Scan; Photograph the *entire* comic, not just 3/4ths of it.
 - Use good lighting. Edit afterwards if need be. Retake the photo if need be.
 - Upload in .jpeg, .png, or .heic (default on a lot of cameras).

2. Comics Back Matter Critical Analysis (1000w) to accompany Comic [4pts]

This will comprise the last component of your graphic narrative. Here, you will write a short analytical and reflective essay about your comic, its construction, and your goals. You will explain what you did, why you selected this topic, what you hoped to achieve, and how this demonstrates your current knowledge of graphic narratives, all using evidence from your comic to support your claims. Include this all in a separate essay, or if you really feel enterprising, add it to the back of your comic in additional comics pages (think: *Murder of Emmett Till* or *INFINITUM*, which feature short writings in the back of the comics).

- 1000w Critical writing
 - What you did (description OF the comic: overview and visual/textual approaches) [250 words]
 - **Analysis** of visual and textual rhetoric in the comic w/evidence from your GN [500 words]
 - i.e. Explain what you did > Then, highlight evidence of that action > finally analyze & unpack it.
 - Significance/Purpose of your GN (why this topic and what you hoped to achieve) [250 words]

Notes

- **Many students lost points because they mostly talked about their experiences making the comic or talked *around* the comic. Make sure to analyze your own comic. Pull specific pieces of evidence out. Walk us through what you created.**
 - Don't tell us that you did something because it was cool/fun/interesting. OR, if you do, you *need* to really, really put that under a microscope, and reflect on what intuition led you to making. Think about how Lynda Barry says that we can follow our hand as it creates life in comics, but even then, she still explains what she did and analyzes it after.
- A good habit to get into is Claim > explain evidence from *your* comic > Analyze it and connect back to your claim. This is effective writing no matter your discipline: creative pitch documents; law/medical/grad school applications; teaching portfolios; journalism; etc.
 - Ex: "I worked to illustrate the struggles of getting healthcare during the early stages of the pandemic, as shown in panels 1-4 on page 2. Panel 1 is in full color, but each panel thereafter is less colorful as I keep finding medical places full. This shows my waning morale, as well as reflects my physical condition getting worse as the day goes on (as you can see my figure starting to slump as each panel goes on)."
- 12pt font, Times new roman, double-spaced; name/date/class, title up at the top, etc.
- Submitted as a .pdf or .docx.

Grading: 10pts

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE: 6PTS	AUTHORIAL STATEMENT (WHAT AND WHY YOU DID): 4 PTS TOTAL
Content (what it is & connections to class and prompts): 2 pts	Description of your comic (approach, content, structure), 250w: 1pt
Organization & craft (overall polish: inked; free from typos; uploaded cleanly): 2 pts	Critical analysis of your GN w/evidence from your GN, 500w: 2pts
Application & Growth (applied lessons & feedback from assignments & peers): 2 pts	Purpose & Significance, 250w: 1pt