

W101: Stories of the US from the Bomb to 9/11

Spring 2020

Assignment 3: Final project

Assignment description:

The third assignment for our class is a final portfolio. You have flexibility with the choices you make for your final projects. Your objective is to explore a concept you have found most interesting in the course of our class, and experiment with the relationship between form and content.

The portfolio comes in several parts:

1. An annotated bibliography (see separate assignment sheet);
2. A final project in the form of your choice;
3. A 2- to 3-page reflection on your final project;
4. And an optional annotated revision of a previous assignment for extra credit.

Assignment details:

The first step is to choose a concept from class discussion that you want to explore further. Concepts include, but are certainly not limited to: soft power, the atomic bomb, superheroes, space exploration, colonization, paranoia, nativism, etc. Your annotated bibliography will be your first opportunity to explore your chosen concept in depth. This portion is worth 100/400 points.

Then you will craft a product that can take the form of a traditional research paper, a drawn comic, an original poem, a podcast, a script, or any other form that speaks to your interests and appeals to a particular audience. In choosing your form, think about all we have discussed in class about the relationship between narrative form/style, content, and subject positions. You will be required to incorporate 2 outside sources. I am leaving the method of incorporation up to your creative design. This portion is worth 200/400 points.

The last step is to write a single-spaced 2- to 3-page reflection on your creation explaining all of the rhetorical, design, and argumentative choices you've made in your project (i.e. you cannot choose to draw your comic in green just because you like the color green; every choice must be explained). This portion is worth 100/400 points.

Additionally, you have the option of choosing one of your previous writing assignments and submitting an annotated revision. Use track changes to mark out and explain the reason for all of the changes you make. The revision will be graded for the process of self-reflection and qualification of revision choices—not on the final product (this means that even A papers can be revised). This optional revision is worth an extra 25 points added onto your final assignment score.

Additional details:

Final portfolios are due on the last day of class, April 21

Grading Rubric

	A	B	C	D/F
Mechanics	Final portfolio includes all required parts			Final portfolio is missing required parts
Organization/focus	Portfolio is well-planned, well-thought out, and focused on a concept	Good overall organization but may be unfocused in certain places	There is a sense of organization, although weak or missing in some places, and/or does maintain focus on a concept	No sense of organization or focus throughout the paper
Style	Clear use of a personal and unique style, suited to audience and purpose; the project holds interest with ease	An attempt at a personal style but may be awkward or unsuited to audience and purpose; some parts of the project may lose interest	Little attempt at style; reads as flat and perhaps uninteresting in content, which is generalized and clichéd	No attempt at style
Content	Content is well-presented and well-supported ideas throughout; ideas are supported with specific details	Content is well-presented, supported with some details	Content is sound, but ideas presented are not particularly developed or supported	Content is not sound