

## Multimodal Literary Projects

### Approach

At the beginning of my literature courses, I introduce students to the practice and components of multimodal composition. We talk about the relevance of multimodal composition in their daily, academic, and professional lives in terms of giving and receiving information. Most of the composition courses at my institution focus on alphabetic writing, so I take the opportunity in my literature courses to introduce students to multimodal composition and allow them the opportunity to practice this approach and skills over the course of three projects. In these projects, I ask students to use the critical lenses, the course themes of space/place and identity, and texts by Bui, Nguyen, and Phi to engage in multimodal literary analysis.

### Multimodal Project #1: Critical Lenses – Intro to Theory

*You will create a Padlet that demonstrates your application of one critical lens to one short story from *The Refugees* by Nguyen or the essay "Brutal" by Phi.*

1. Create a free account at [www.padlet.com](http://www.padlet.com).
2. Create a Padlet (you are free to choose whichever format, background, etc. that you would like). The Padlet can either be public or you can protect it with a password (if you do, make sure to provide the password to the instructor when you submit the Padlet in the dropbox).
3. Choose one of the short stories/essays we read by Nguyen and Phi and apply one of the eight critical lenses to it. The expectation is that the overall word count for the Padlet will be around 1000 words. Use photos, images, videos, audio recordings, and hotlinks to complement the written (alphabetic) information you are providing. You are expected to use *The Theory Toolbox* as a secondary source for this project.
4. Cite your sources using MLA style and add them to the bottom of each post.
5. Copy and paste the Padlet link (and password, if you have chosen to go that route) into a Word or text doc and upload it into the dropbox (located in to the "assignments" tab under "assessments") by [due date].

### Grading Considerations

Does the composition contain one critical lens and one course text? 5 pts.

Does the composition meet the required word count and formatting requirements? 5 pts.

Is the composition free of technical, grammatical, typographic, or spelling errors? 5 pts.

Are relevant textual elements—for example, examples, descriptions, explanations, quotations—integrated into the composition? 5 pts.

Are appropriate sound elements—for example, music, noise, voice—integrated into the composition? 5 pts.

Are appropriate visual elements—for example, still images or moving images—integrated into the project? 5 pts.

Do the modes used in the composition work well together to serve the composer's purpose and to address the composer's intended audience? 10 pts.

Is the project well-focused overall? Are the transitions between and across ideas, however those ideas are presented? 10 pts.

## Multimodal Project #2: Theme - Space/Place

You will create an infographic to examine the themes of space/place in Bui's *The Best We Could Do* or Nguyen's *The Sympathizer*.

1. Create a free account at [www.piktochart.com](http://www.piktochart.com).
2. Create an infographic (you are free to choose whichever format that you would like).
3. Give an overview of where you have encountered the themes of space/place in the course readings. Pull direct citations from the literary texts as examples of these themes. The expectation is that the overall word count will be around 800 words. Use photos and graphics to complement the written (alphabetic) information you are providing.
4. Cite sources using MLA parenthetical citations and a works cited section at the end of the infographic.
5. Download the infographic from Piktochart and upload it into the dropbox (located in to the "assignments" tab under "assessments") by [due date].

### Grading Considerations

Does the composition address the theme of space/place in Bui's *The Best We Could Do* or Nguyen's *The Sympathizer*? 5 pts.

Does the composition meet the required word count and formatting requirements? 5 pts.

Is the composition free of technical, grammatical, typographic, or spelling errors? 5 pts.

Are relevant textual elements—for example, examples, descriptions, explanations, quotations—integrated into the composition? 5 pts.

Are appropriate sound elements—for example, music, noise, voice—integrated into the composition? 5 pts.

Are appropriate visual elements—for example, still images or moving images—integrated into the project? 5 pts.

Do the modes used in the composition work well together to serve the composer's purpose and to address the composer's intended audience? 10 pts.

Is the project well-focused overall? Are the transitions between and across ideas, however those ideas are presented? 10 pts.

### **Multimodal Project #3: Thematic and Theoretical Analysis – Identity**

*For your final project for the course, you will create a stand-alone Prezi that uses a critical lens to examine the theme of identity in three texts we read for class.*

1. Create a free educational account at [www.Prezi.com](http://www.Prezi.com) (you'll need to use your normandale.edu or another .edu email address)
2. Choose three of the texts we read for class and engage in a literary analysis using one of the eight critical lenses (the critical lens you choose should be different from the one you chose for your first multimodal project). In your analysis, you will examine similarities and differences between the texts regarding the theme of identity. For example, you could use the gender lens to analyze the impact of gender on the identity formation of the protagonists in *The Sympathizer*, *The Best We Could Do*, and "Brutal." You are expected to use *The Theory Toolbox* as a secondary source for this project.
3. To present your analysis, create an engaging Prezi (use whichever format/elements you would like). Use photos, graphics, videos, and hot links to complement the written (alphabetic) information you are providing. The Prezi should be a "stand-alone" presentation, meaning that readers could get meaning out of it without you verbally presenting it to them. Minimum word count: 1200.
4. Paste the "share" link for your Prezi in a Word doc and upload it into the dropbox (located in to the "assignments" tab under "assessments") by [due date]. You will also share your Prezi link in this [Multimodal Project #3](#) discussion forum in the thread with your name on it. View and comment on the Prezis of the three other people in your thread by [due date].
5. Present your Prezi/your composition process to the class during finals week. We will discuss presentation expectations and sign up for presentation times during Week 15.

#### **Grading Considerations**

Does the composition address the theme of identity in three texts by Bui, Nguyen, or Phi through one of the 8 critical lenses? 5 pts.

Does the composition meet the required word count and formatting requirements? 5 pts.

Is the composition free of technical, grammatical, typographic, or spelling errors? 5 pts.

Are relevant textual elements—for example, examples, descriptions, explanations, quotations—integrated into the composition? 5 pts.

Are appropriate sound elements—for example, music, noise, voice—integrated into the composition? 5 pts.

Are appropriate visual elements—for example, still images or moving images—integrated into the project? 5 pts.

Do the modes used in the composition work well together to serve the composer's purpose and to address the composer's intended audience? 10 pts.

Is the project well-focused overall? Are the transitions between and across ideas, however those ideas are presented? 10 pts.