Multimodal/Hypertext (Connections) Assignment Description
Topic Proposal due by Nov. 19th (emailed)
Files posted/presentations Dec. 8th /final revisions due Dec. 15th

Purpose

The final essay will use both what we've learned about nonfiction and its various forms as well as what we've been learning about visual rhetoric, multimedia, and electronic literature. As we have been forming connections between these aspects of writing, you will also be using this essay to express the idea of "connections." These web-based hypertexts are meant to be **"digital-born,"** meaning composed in the medium and for the medium; electronic texts should *need* the medium in some way. You should consider electronic elements you have seen that worked or did not work, forms that were appropriate for the medium and those that were not. Think about the purpose of electronic literature and create a project with your readers in mind. For example, are you most intrigued by fragmented text linked and read in various orders creating different narratives or are you most interested in new media texts that move and rely or don't rely on reader interaction/navigation? What kind of designs have you seen that you liked? What do you want the readers of your work to come away with? Above all, be creative (even with a more researched project) and consider how visual, electronic and textual elements can work together to create meaning in a work of creative nonfiction.

Method

This assignment has three parts:

Proposal/design plan: An email stating the nature of your project and a sketch or description of how it will be designed. You should have an idea of the software you might use (Dreamweaver, ThingLink, Twine, etc.), what level of interactivity, etc. (no templated website software). This needs to be emailed to me by **Nov. 19t**. If you want to compose using software/programs other than these, you will just need to justify that decision and have a solid plan in mind.

Project: Your project must be original compositions created specifically for an electronic medium as a work of digital nonfiction. You may compose a project that is more personal narrative or memoir or a more research-based essay that is suited to an electronic form. Learning the software while you compose this project is a given, so don't let your current technological abilities hinder your ideas. We no longer have access to the lab or Parker Media Lab, unfortunately, but you do have remote access to Adobe and other free software. You have the remainder of the semester to compose something **unique and polished** so please take advantage of that. We will also still workshop these projects and present them the last week of class, so try to stay on schedule.

Reflection: A **2-page** letter reflecting on your composition process and an analysis of your own work in the greater scope of nonfiction and digital literature and the course readings specifically. Also address this project in relation to the others you completed for the course, how composing for the medium reinforces (or not depending on your experience) McLuhan's "the medium is the message." You might want to include ideas from the other theory readings (Bush, Nelson, Coover). You may also address this new form in general.

Audience

Your instructor and your classmates. The Electronic Literature Organization? ☺

Length & Format

For the project: one complete and amazing Hypertext Essay presented (and links or links to uploaded files) the last week of class (**Dec. 8th**). Still 5 pages equivalent of text. Final drafts are due by **Dec. 15th**.
For the reflection: 2 pages. Letter or memo format. STAPLED, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, etc. You will need citations for all theory or e-literature you are citing, and descriptions and attributions for any screen shots, etc. Due **Dec. 15th**. This assignment (including the proposal and reflective memo) is worth **20%** of your final grade.