

Electronic Literature Analysis, Presentation, & ELD Entry

Proposals due by October 5th, Essay drafts & Presentations due October 19th

Final analysis & ELD Entries submitted October 26th

Purpose

Expanding on our exploration in genres of electronic literature thus far, the first major assignment for the course will be an analysis of a work of electronic literature. This will provide you with practice reviewing and analyzing texts while introducing you to a “new” kind of literary analysis, that includes an emphasis on visuals, design, movement, interactivity, and sound. We will be looking at examples of electronic literature in class and discussing terms used to analyze print literature and terms that may need to be included to discuss electronic works. You will then choose a work of electronic literature from the *ELD list* to review and analyze—be sure to choose something that you can comment on and are interested in. **Proposals are due by October 5th** and will include the work you would like to review/analyze, why you chose it, and what you might focus on in your essay (& presentation).

Method

As with any analysis, your thesis is your interpretation of the text. As with any work of literature, you will want to write about the significance, themes, characterization, tone, setting, and narrative elements. For electronic literature analysis, attention must also be paid to multimodal affordances: the medium, design, audio, interactivity, etc. You will want to describe not only visual and audio elements of the work, but reader interaction and how the media (form/technology) expresses and enhances the theme(s) and characters of the work. Describe the text to a reader who has never seen it. What does it look like? What colors are used? How does it require the reader to interact with it? What is the overall effect? Use details and quotes from the work to support your interpretation. Not every piece, however, will have audio or video for instance, although the lack of these may also be discussed. You may make personal connections to the work, commenting on your interest-level, why you chose this particular work, etc. You can also include your thoughts of e-lit in general. Questions to consider: How does electronic literature differ from that of print? Do the visuals, movement, and audio count as “text”? How does the idea of medium as message fit into the work you are writing about? Does reading in an online environment mean the “end of books”? Citations from the textbook and course theory readings, as well as any outside sources, will be helpful in your analysis. Your essay may take print or digital form (consider making your analysis a hypertext or video work).

This assignment has 3 parts:

1. **A print or digital analysis** of a work of e-lit you choose
2. **A brief (& informal) presentation** to the class on your work (how it works, what you analyzed, its significance in the field, etc.)
3. **An entry for the Electronic Literature Directory (ELD)** to be published (see attached requirements). I expect this will be almost like a synopsis from your analysis.

Audience

Your instructor and your classmates. Someone unfamiliar with electronic literature and who has NOT seen/read the literature you are evaluating. The ELD.

Length & Format

Essay: Minimum 5 pages (for print or digital format). STAPLED, double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, etc. For digital, a working html or video file or link to website folder. You will need citations for the course readings and electronic literature itself (MLA format) and a **works cited page**.

Presentation: Approximately 10 minutes. PowerPoint, Google Slide, Prezi, or video format (also MLA format).

ELD entry: See attached requirements. These should be polished for publication and are approximately **1 page**.

This assignment (including the proposal) is worth **25%** of your final grade.