

FSTY 1313 Assignment 5: Instructional Comic

(Worth 10% of your grade; due on December 13)

Overview

This semester, we have explored the field of “writing studies,” and our readings have focused primarily on *print* literacies. For this final assignment, we will turn our attention to *visual* and *electronic* literacies, which are deeply intertwined with contemporary print culture. Drawing on our class readings (or on your individual work for the research paper), you will create a short instructional comic that (a) illustrates a specific concept in the field of writing studies, or (b) provides “how to” advice for becoming a better reader, writer, or researcher.

Assignment Details

The list of allowable subjects for this project is intentionally broad, so you should pick a topic that will sustain your interest through the end of the semester. I will approve your topic before you proceed with the project, but as long as you can demonstrate a strong connection between your idea and one of the ideas we have studied this semester, you will have my blessing. By the end of class on Thursday, November 17, you should be ready to submit your topic for approval.

To create our comics, we will use a software program called Comic Life (<http://plasq.com/products/comiclife2/>), which is available for Mac, PC, and Linux. You may purchase the software if you choose, but the 30-day free trial should be sufficient for this project. As you create your comic, you can draw on Comic Life’s library of pre-designed templates, or you can build your comic from scratch. However, the one thing that is *not* included in Comic Life is images, so you will need to take photographs, download images shared with a Creative Commons license, or create original artwork for your comic. (We will discuss how to do each of these things in class next week.) You will then combine these images with a script you have written to create your finished comic. Remember, the parameters for this assignment are wide open, so don’t be afraid to get creative!

The length of your finished comic will depend on the size of images you create and the page layout you select, but generally speaking, your comic should be at least 3–4 pages long. (Comics that make use of half- or full-page images might be considerably longer.) There is no minimum word-count requirement for this assignment, but your comic should include a substantive written component. (In other words, it shouldn’t consist solely of pictures.)

To submit your comic, name your Comic Life file with your full name (e.g., “Quinn Warnick Instructional Comic”) and upload a copy of your file to Quinn’s Dropbox before you come to our class final on Tuesday, December 13, at 9:00 a.m. (I will show you how to do this in class.) In addition, bring one printed copy of your comic (in color, if possible) to class that day.

Evaluation Criteria

I will evaluate your instructional comic using the following criteria:

- **Content:** Does the comic address a significant topic within the field of writing studies, and does it provide an accurate depiction and/or sound advice on this topic?
- **Originality:** Does the comic offer a unique perspective on its subject? Has the creator attempted to do something new and different?
- **Multimodality:** Does the comic effectively blend written words with images? Do the words and the images support one another, rather than detract from one another?
- **Citations:** Does the comic (or an attached Works Cited page) acknowledge all external sources for both text and images?
- **Correctness:** Does the comic adhere to the conventions of standard written English (i.e., spelling, punctuation, grammar)? Does the comic follow the conventions for the genre of comics (e.g., speech bubbles, sequencing)?