MG PAPER 2021 "the contract A" English 8a / ENG 102

This is the research project you've been waiting for. . . . OK. Maybe not, but it's the one we're pursuing. It *is*, however, your chance to write about something that matters to you. No topic is too weird or too unimportant (as long as you find it fascinating). You get to combine factual, researched information with imaginative, creative ideas, and move your reader with a one of a kind experience.

Satisfy your curiosity, find answers to questions, and create something that might border on magic. It's your project.

POTENTIAL SOURCES FOR YOUR INQUIRY

- Book(s)
- Database Articles / News Articles
- Internet Sources[1]
- Field Research

GENRES/PIECES/ELEMENTS YOUR MULTI-GENRE PROJECT MUST CONTAIN

- **Title page**
- **Brief "argument" piece** (proposal, position, or evaluation) 2 to 3 pages (double-spaced)— Craft a thought-provoking argument that uses research, cites sources MLA style and employs an open-ended thesis that develops its argument as the piece evolves. Pare down your topic to essentials, a straight-forward "research paper" in miniature.
- **Preface/Prologue/Dear Reader Letter**
- **Poetry** in contemporary free-verse or spoken-word style
- **Flash fiction** (or non-fiction)
- **Photo Essay** with an original photo (no internet / stock images)
- **Works Cited**
- **End Abstracts** (pertinent or interesting information about the research and/or writing of the elements of your project – more like writing abstracts. Definitely NOT like Chicago-style citation endnotes)
- **Unifying elements** (thread, repetend, repeated images, motifs, fragmented narrative, etc.)
- **Writer Bio** – like the blurb at the back of a published book, include your photo and author bio (just a paragraph or two)

You MUST include all 10 bulleted items in your paper. You'll need to write more genres than the ones listed to create a fully realized multi-genre experience. Whatever else you write is up to you. Range widely as you create this paper. Your intellect and sensibility are capable of inventiveness and surprising connections. Make them happen.

- 1 item MUST be generated through your own field research. This means YOU conduct research through interview, or survey, or observation. This can show up in any genre whether required or extra, but be sure to use your endnotes to explain the research YOU did.

Your project will also be assessed based on "visage," copyedit, the effectiveness of the final piece, and overall effect (including all pieces included).

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[1] Please be careful with the internet. As helpful as it might be, there's a whole lot of nonsense out there too. Know how to discern a credible source from a fake one, and when you aren't sure, ask the experts. Be sure to cite information responsibly. This isn't about copying and pasting or "finding" genre pieces and collecting them. YOU are the creator of each piece, a creator who gives credit to those whose work is mentioned, quoted, or expanded upon.

EXPLORING IDEAS

You will bring to WRITE CLUB (submit-via-DropBox) 3 - 5 ideas (number them) you might pursue in a multi-genre project, explaining why these ideas interest you (these can be as weird & abstract as you wish).

DESIGNING RESEARCH (PROPOSAL + SKETCH/OUTLINE + ANNOTATED WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY)

The Research Design will "jump-start" your project, help you think about your topic in a concentrated way. You'll do some initial exploration with words on paper. You'll come to think things you wouldn't have if you only mused about your topic. It will also push you to get researching early to see what's "out there" about and related to your topic.

NOTE-TAKING

You'll need to take notes as you research. How you choose to do so, is up to you, but BE METHODICAL. Read your sources, annotate them. If you want to take notes in a notebook or on notecards, go right ahead – again, BE METHODICAL. Keep track of authors and page numbers for citation use later. Cite responsibly.

CONFERENCING

After completing and submitting a draft of your multi-genre project, you will sign up for a conference time for a one-on-one meeting about your progress. Fill out a conference sheet prior to attending and don't forget – it's MANDATORY.

COPYEDIT

The final step in making sure your project is "perfect" is to proof for clean copyedit. After all the time, effort, creativity, and brilliance you poured into this work, be sure you know WHY – Every. Single. Mark. Occurs. (No careless mistakes.)

FINAL "PRODUCT"

Your multi-genre product will be a total of 13 – 17 pages in length (**NOT** including title page, works cited or end abstracts). It will need a fitting and original title, and a pleasing visual design.

FLIPGRID PRESENTATION

At the conclusion of this project (the biggest piece of the year), we will celebrate its completion by sharing the wonderment you have created. You will upload to Flipgrid a screencast sharing your topic, your interest and drive to complete it, and a powerful excerpt from your work.

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

Your multi-genre paper will be reviewed for including the required components, the effectiveness and writing of the pieces, the ways the pieces work together within the project itself, and "scored" holistically according to the "grading of writing" guidelines at mrsconnollysclass.com.

"A multigenre paper arises from research, experience, and imagination. It is not an uninterrupted, expository monolog nor a seamless narrative nor a collection of poems. A multigenre paper is composed of many genres and sub-genres, each piece self-contained, making a point of its own, yet connected by a theme or topic and sometimes by language, images, and content. In addition to many genres, a multigenre paper may also contain many voices, not just the author's. The trick is to make such a paper hang together." – Tom Romano, Blending Genre, Altering Style *(x-xi)*

*Much of this assignment has been borrowed and adapted from ideas and suggestions in Tom Romano's *Fearless Writing.*