MG PAPER 2021 "THE CONTRACT B"   English 8A / ENG 102

This is a chance to pursue a passion in your intellectual/emotional life, a chance to strive to answer a question or solve a problem or explore meaning involving a topic of consuming interest to you and to communicate your learning through a multi-genre research project, where you get the factual, the emotional, and the imaginative. This is a time to be expansive, to try the untried.

Choose an idea, topic, trend, problem, era, person, cultural phenomenon, movement, item, place . . . and become the quintessential, wigged-out mad researcher on the trail of information vital to achieving peace of mind and satisfying your insatiable curiosity.

SOURCES FOR YOUR INQUIRY

- Database Articles / News Articles
- Internet Sources[1]

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

- **Title page**
- **Brief "argument" piece** (proposal, position, or evaluation) **1 ½ – 2 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.
- **Dear Reader Letter**
- **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 **7 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.

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

CHOOSE ONE – the rest are OPTIONS (but you could choose them as your extra genres)

- Poetry in contemporary free-verse or spoken-word style
- Flash fiction (or non-fiction)
- Photo Essay with an original photo (no internet / stock images)
- Field Research (interview, survey, observation, etc.) – research YOU conduct

---

[1] The Internet is democratic. You know it holds surprising, helpful information. And since there is no screening on the Internet, you'll also encounter misinformation, balderdash, and lies. Be careful. Learn who sponsors a website and what its purpose and bias are. Gauge the quality and the depth of what you find in cyberspace. I definitely don't want you to simply paste material from a website into your project. I want to see an original multi-genre paper from you, one passionate and grounded in a thorough research understanding of your topic. I want to see you expand your knowledge about some subject, maybe even develop wisdom. I want to see you stretch and refine your writing skills and powers of communication. I want you to use the thinking we've done about writing with a distinctive voice. I want to read your paper and be informed, but even more, I want to be *moved.*

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.

OPTIONAL CONFERENCING

If you'd like to talk through your project, stop by virtual office hours on Fridays.

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 **minimum 10 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.