

Sample English 102 Assignment | Critical Observations of the Everyday: Visual-Spatial Public Argument

Assignment Overview and Purpose

As a final project for this course, you will create a visual-spatial public argument that draws upon your spontaneous composing log entries. You will present this project at the UA Writing Program's Visual-Spatial Showcase on [insert date]. To complete this project, you will need to carefully review your log entries in order to identify some of the larger social issues that you noticed in your critical observations of the everyday. Your goal for this assignment will be to show that larger social issues can be located in everyday places and spaces, using evidence from your log entries as well as from any outside research you've done on the issue.

Your project should incorporate both visual and spatial elements but can be created using whatever medium you choose. For instance, you might recreate a scene from one of your observations, or you might put together a series of photographs of one of the places in your log. Or you might even create a map that shows connections between course readings on a given issue and observations from your log. Feel free to be as creative as you want to be and to incorporate any of the composing technologies you are comfortable using.

The important thing to remember is that your project should make an argument about an issue; whether this argument is implied or explicit is up to you.

Audience

The primary audience for this assignment will be other English 102 students and instructors at the UA, but it might also include other UA staff, faculty, and students.

Grading Criteria

I will grade this assignment based on its appropriateness for the rhetorical situation (audience, purpose, and context), as well as how successfully it engages with key course concepts (rhetorical situation, visual-spatial analysis, and organization and development).

Additional Requirements, Guidelines, and Resources

Because the nature of this project is different from anything we've done this semester, I am requiring that each student meet with me to discuss her/his ideas for this project during the week of [indicate dates]. You should come to this conference with a sketch of your project idea, a summary of the argument you want to make, a list of required technology, and any log entries that have informed your project. You should also bring a list of any questions or concerns you have about the project so that I may address them during our meeting.

I also encourage you to be in regular contact with me as you complete this project so that you don't find yourself overwhelmed or confused. I am happy to help you in any way I can, so don't hesitate to e-mail me with questions!