

Minnesota Writing Project

Demonstration Lesson Template

Title: From Transcendentalism to Today: Connecting Ideas Through Multigenre Composition

Grade appropriate: Grade 11, American Lit.

Approximate Length of time to complete lesson/unit: ~2 weeks for Project

Learning objectives and significance of lesson:

- Allow students to use writing to explore the personal connection they have with a place.
- Create a piece of writing that uses sensory images to demonstrate their feelings for the place.
- Develop and include other texts to expand on the importance of this place.

Brief summary/outline:

(Is this lesson an intro? middle? end? All or part of a unit? Does it scaffold a certain learning?)

This composition project falls into the larger context of a Nature Literature Unit, specifically while reading *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer (which is itself a multigenre text). Students will create and compile a group of "texts" to develop one certain theme or idea—texts must come from a variety of genres and include their voice and other authors' voices.

Assignment:

- Topic Selection: Choose an outdoor place that is important to you.
- Final Product: Your multigenre assignment will include
 - 1.One three-page reflective essay about your topic.
 - 2.At least one photograph, picture, or illustration that is related to your topic.
 - 3.One postcard, letter, e-mail or other communication to or from a person mentioned.
 - 4.One map that shows where your essay is set.
 - 5.Two quotes by famous writers, musicians, historians, athletes, etc., that are related to your topic.
 - 6.At least one more genre that best reflects your topic.

Related Resources:

Allen, Camille A. *The Multigenre Research Paper: Voice, Passion, and Discovery in Grades 4-6*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2001.

Putz, Melinda. *A Teacher's Guide to the Multigenre Research Project: Everything You Need to Get Started*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2006.

Romano, Tom. *Blending Genre, Altering Style: Writing Multigenre Papers*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2000.

***The Romano book gives you all the information you need to get started and to understand the value of the multigenre assignment.*

Your Multigenre Web: *Everything You Need to Know to Succeed*.

http://mshogue.com/ce9/multi_genre/multigenre.htm

***This website gives great ideas for structuring the assignment once it's been created.*

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:

This project could easily be adapted to some sort of research project around an author, a particular novel, a time period, etc. Narrowing the field of "texts" that are acceptable or shortening the length of writing required would help to make this assignment viable for students at many different levels and in different subjects.

This assignment within a Nature unit could easily become an interdisciplinary unit with science classrooms, for example. Giving more information about the natural world itself, a particular eco-system, etc. would add more to the research aspect of the project.

For additional information, contact:

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