

Writing & Digital Media–Spring 2015

English 3844 @ Virginia Tech – Spring 2015

[Home](#)

[Syllabus](#)

[Assignments](#)

[Resources](#)

[Contact Info](#)

[All Posts by Title](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Forums](#)

[Online Office Hours](#)

[Class Blogs](#)

You are here: [Home](#) / [Assignments](#) / Project 4: Remix a Story

Project 4: Remix a Story

Important Dates

I will post readings and activities in the daily posts on the course website. You'll work on this project for the rest of the term, doing an oral presentation during one of the last class sessions.

The Project Assignment

Overview

Your job is to take an existing story (fiction or nonfiction) told primarily in the linguistic mode and translate it into a new, digital, multimodal version. The idea of remaking an old story in a new way should be familiar to you. Anytime a movie is made that is based on a book, those involved are creating a new multimodal version of the original linguistic-focused text.

You are not limited to making a movie-version of your text however. For this project, I want you to think creatively about how to represent the text in a new format and genre. Nearly anything goes. I only ask that you use at least three modes of communication. You may stick closely to the original version of the story or event, or you may reimagine the story from another perspective. Your options are open on this assignment.

Deliverables

- A blog post for each class session that summarizes and reflects on your work to date.
- An in-class pitch of your topic (2 minutes), following details in Chapter 3.
- A rough cut for peer feedback.
- A final draft posted on your WordPress site.
- An oral presentation of your project, following details in Chapter 8.

Details

Return to top of page

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Step 1. Choose a story.

Choose a story that you like or are interested in exploring. I suggest you aim for a shorter, rather than a longer story to base your project on. An entire novel would be far too much. Focus on something like a well-known fable, fairy tale, myth, or historical event. An older story may be easier to work with than a recent story. Choose a story that is classroom-friendly. Nothing X-rated or otherwise inappropriate please.

Be sure that you focus your story very specifically. Let's say you were going to try working on a historical event. The U.S. Civil War is far too broad for this project. You would need to focus that topic much further to something like a particular skirmish, a specific decision that a soldier or military leader made, or a particular document (like a speech, a proclamation, or even a photo). Lincoln would be too broad. Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" could work. Focusing on the story behind [one or more of these Gettysburg Photos](#) or a [draft of the Address](#) would be fine.

Step 2. Choose a form for your story.

Once you have chosen a story, you need to choose the form and design for your project. You need to choose a format that will use at least three modes of communication. You can use more than three, if you wish. Check the [Story Remix Possibilities](#) and the related links on that page for more ideas.

Step 3. Pitch your project.

You will explain your plans for your project to the class in 2 minutes, relying on the ideas in *Writer/Designer*, Chapter 3 (especially pp. 54–56). We will go around the classroom with each person explaining their plans for the project to the class.

Use the questions on p. 56 of *Writer/Designer* to plan what you want to say. You will need to identify the original story, your remix plans, and the genre you are planning to use.

Step 4. Develop and refine your project.

Following the resources in *Writer/Designer*, Chapter 4, 5, 6 and 7, you will collect sources and assets, design your citations, develop mock-ups and storyboards, and draft and revise your project (from rough cut to rough draft to final project). You can find full details on all these tasks in the textbook, and we will discuss them in class.

Step 5. Present your project.

Following the resources in *Writer/Designer*, Chapter 8, you will deliver and present your remixed story. You will have approximately 5 to 6 minutes for your class presentation. In your presentation, you will focus on sharing details about how you worked and the decisions that

you made. Use the information on pp. 132–135 of *Writer/Designer* to determine what information to include.

You will create a digital presentation, using Google slides, Prezi, or a similar tool. Ideally, you will use the [1/1/5 organizational strategy](#) (using no more than 15 slides) to present the information to the class. If time allows, you can share your entire remix as part of your presentation. *Email me the URL to your Google Slides by midnight on the day before your presentation (no grace period).*

Last updated on 13th April, 2015, 10:24 AM