

Unit 3 Capstone: Multi-Modal Research Project

Purpose:

- To establish your group for Unit 4;
- To gather research necessary for the Unit 4 project;
- To present an argument in a non-traditional, multi-modal format.

Topic:

In Unit 4 your group will compose a documentary film. Before you can create a well-developed documentary, you must first thoroughly research your subject matter to ensure that you fully understand the complexity of the situation and its context. Doing so will allow you to create a documentary with a better sense of authority--with stronger ethos.

Therefore, you will write the equivalent of a six page argument paper in preparation for your documentary. Your topic will be a sub-topic of the subject your group you'll work with for the documentary project. You will determine the subject and sub-topics together, but each person will research individually.

The topics for this research project and the documentary will make an argument related to one of the following issues:

1. Identity
2. Community
3. The American Dream

A Closer Look:

This essay should be presented in a means that uses “multiple modalities”—in other words, you should find ways to integrate media other than words into your presentation. It should also be housed in an electronic form in some way. You could write a traditional essay and integrate visuals into it in a purposeful way. You could make a website and integrate hyperlinks, visuals and even video. You could make an electronic scrapbook that combines words and images. You could create a digital comic book. You could create an audio file or set of tracks along with album art. The decision is up to you, but this is an opportunity to practice making an argument using more than just words. Your decision should be appropriate to your audience and topic.

Remember:

- Like your documentary, your argument should respond to a specific research question.
- Your argument should be based upon library research primarily. You should collect at least 6 reputable sources that will help you build your ethos in your documentary project.
- Include with your essay a memo wherein you explain why you chose to use the modalities you have, how you attempted to use them to add to your argument and why (or why not) you think this helped your argument.