

Artifact 1: Multimodal Remix

OVERVIEW

Consider Joan Didion’s self-described “theft” of George Orwell’s 1946 essay “Why I Write.” What exactly did Didion carry over from Orwell’s essay aside from its title? Which elements did she transform? And for what purposes?

In this assignment, like Didion you will borrow and rework features—whether stylistic, thematic, formal, argumentative, etc.—from any text that we have read in Unit 1. But unlike Didion, your transformation will also transcend modality, shifting from writing to any mode (or combination of modes) of your choosing. For instance, you might transform Alexander Chee’s fragmented and minimal paragraphs into a sharply stylized video essay. Or you might transpose Lorrie Moore’s use of the second person into a recorded poem that puts the listener front and center.

The purpose of this assignment is for you to describe a portion of your own experience as a writer or to express a belief you hold about composition or its teaching. More simply, in your remix you will tell a piece of your own story as a writer or convey a closely held opinion about writing. Thus, you should select your reading and mode(s) carefully; each should be chosen for its potential to enhance the transmission of whatever you intend to communicate. Finally, your story or belief should be significant enough to change how your audience thinks about a particular aspect of writing.

INSTRUCTIONS

- This Artifact is due 2-12 as an attachment or link on Canvas
- The Artifact should be substantial enough to demand 4-8 minutes of attention
- Also compose a two-paragraph statement of intent that describes which elements you carried over from a course reading, how you transformed them, and why
- Keep in mind that the Communication Center is the best resource you can use to prepare for and revise your Artifact

EVALUATION

I will grade this assignment according to the Writing and Communication Program’s [evaluation rubric](#). In addition, I will pay particular attention to:

- Intentionality (do your selected text and mode strengthen what you communicate?)
- Significance and stakes (could your personal narrative or belief change how an audience thinks about composition?)
- Engagement (does your project captivate its audience?)
- Structure (do the elements of your project build in a necessary [i.e. non-random] way?)

Remember: no matter who you are, you have something meaningful to say about writing.