**The Graphic Novel**

**Quarter 1 Research Project**

**OVERVIEW**

Your group will be assigned an inquiry topic. You must cooperate to delegate tasks. Choose a method and platform of communication and information exchange in your group using your own and the class Web 2.0 tools. You must search, collect, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to answer your assigned question about comics’ history.

After you have completed the research portion of the project, you will work with your group to creatively present your findings using a combination of images and words in a medium of your choice. Your goal is to teach your peers what you learned about an aspect of comics’ history.

Each group will submit an outline written collaboratively including an MLA list of works cited, and you will each assess one another’s presentations using a rubric.

**TOPICS:**

1. Who are the important people who contributed to the growth of comics over time?
2. How has the comics medium been defined, and what are its origins? Where and when did the term “graphic novel” come into use?
3. What is the Golden Age of Comics and why is it called “Golden”?
4. What is the Comics Code, and why was it so controversial?
5. What is MAD magazine, and what role did it play in the history of comics?
6. What is the Underground Comix movement? When and why did it occur?
7. What is the relationship between comics, graphic novels, and the Hollywood film industry?

**For each of the questions above, you must consider the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” in order to answer the question effectively and completely! In other words, your answer to the question(s) need to be fully developed and thorough, moving beyond the initial question(s).**

**TASKS**

1. Understanding the assignment and assigned question(s)
2. Managing information (creating folders, files, notes to keep track of potential and useful sources and information)
3. Searching for Information (using search engines, databases, and library catalogues)
4. Locating information from within a source (website and print sources: how to find and read/skim for relevant information)
5. Critically evaluate information; how do you know if a website or source is biased?
6. Investigating multiple sources to contrast reliability of information
7. Synthesizing information (how do I make sense of all the information to answer the question?
8. Communicating information creatively and effectively (teaching what you learned to an audience; avoiding plagiarism)
9. Assessing an effective presentation
10. Reflecting on your collaboration and process

**REQUIREMENTS**

**Outline**

You must create a detailed outline of your presentation. Creating an outline will help you organize the information you learned in order to create an effective presentation and teach it to your peers. Your outline must include citations and a complete works cited page according to MLA format. You will lose considerable credit for inaccuracies or failure to adhere to MLA format. Use the resources available to you on the course website to complete this requirement. The OWL Writing Center link will be particularly helpful when it comes to answering any questions you may have about formatting, style, constructing an outline, and avoiding plagiarism.

**Presentation**

You can use any technology tool at your disposal to convey your learning. You might compose a short narrated documentary, a dynamic PowerPoint Presentation or Prezi and provide narration, or an interactive website. If there are tools you are aware of that you’d like to use, please ask and SHARE your knowledge and experience with the class! If you would like to prepare a lesson as if you are the teacher, feel free to create handouts etc…and conduct a class. I am open to any ideas you have about the way you’d like to express your new knowledge of comics history.

Regardless of the media you choose, you must ***use images as your primary language***. In other words, do not rely on printed words only to convey your information.

**Reflection**

After the project and presentations are completed, you will reflect on your learning and propose a grade for your groups’ work using the rubric.