

Becoming Selena: The Anatomy of a Cultural Icon

The project depicts Selena Quintanilla through body metaphors instead of using chronological sequences when showcasing her life story. Each section of her profile reflection stands for different aspects of her legacy including her thoughts, emotions, movements and vocal talent and physical actions. I decided to present her meaning rather than show simple chronological facts about Selena Quintanilla.

Through visual poetry and symbolism this project presents Selena as something beyond her musical accomplishments. Her life combined multiple identities as she served as an intercultural unifier who lived through two halves of different worlds. She occupied a dual position between American and Mexican culture because she was completely both perspectives. She made both communities adopt her name. This work demonstrates how she managed to transition through various elements of culture while staying true to herself.

I selected this anatomy-chart layout because the storytelling elements and human aspects were emphasized throughout this class. Making Selena the symbolic main canvas represented a natural decision for me because it involved no physical body modifications. Each “organ” speaks. The hands represent how she crafted herself into culture by performing. The representation of the heart demonstrates her ability to transform Spanglish into musical melodies. Evidence within the presented brain illustrates her ability to handle dual cultural identities. Through its musical tones the voice responds to multiple generations. The eyes saw through the borders. The footsteps left a blueprint. The project illustrates Selena Quintanilla with body metaphors rather than adopting chronological structures to show her life progression. Her profile reflection divides into sections which represent essential parts of her heritage encompassing her ideas along with emotional states and her dancing abilities and musical capabilities and physical expressions. The project displays Selena Quintanilla's meaning rather than standard chronological facts about her history. The project uses visual poetry as well as symbolism to show Selena as a transcendent being who exceeded her musical accomplishments. Her existence united different cultural spheres because she lived through two distinct world periods from one cultural being to the next. She possessed two cultural identities simultaneously because she embodied the entire scope of American and Mexican heritage. Through her life she encouraged both groups to begin using her name. This project illustrates how Selena managed to move between different cultural elements without compromising her personal identity.

Anatomy-chart formatting aligned with my choice because this method portrayed storytelling elements as well as human aspects which had been prominent features in this class study. I found it logical to place Selena at the center of the artwork because this selection required no alterations to the body. Each “organ” speaks. Through the depiction of hands we understand how she developed herself into culture through performance. Through the representation of the heart she proved her mastery of turning Spanglish into musical arrangements. Scientific evidence from the presented brain demonstrates her capacity to handle two cultural identities. The voice interacts with diverse generations by using musical tones in its response. The eyes saw through the borders. The footsteps left a blueprint.