

## MULTIMODAL MEMOIR ASSIGNMENT

INGL 3238 – Creative Writing  
Professor Sonja S. Mongar  
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

---

### INSTRUCTIONS

A multimodal memoir is a true story about some event, aspect of you or your life which combines text, story/narrative, images/media, digital technology, and performance.

You will draw upon the craft of previous readings, discussions and writing assignments on image, point of view, characterization, setting, scene and dialogue, and story. Though we are calling this assignment "multimodal memoir" you will probably sample elements from the genres we've read, discussed and written: life narrative, oral history, autotopography, hypertext and multimodal writing as well.

Creativity and taking risks is encouraged.

#### Content:

- Text can be voiceover narration (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person,) or a recorded interview/video or dialogue, or tags composed of single words or phrases.
- Story/narrative is the structure and the content of the story – not more than five minutes long.
- Images are either existing (photos) or created images (illustrations) – see below.
- Technology is the platform you will choose to structure and create your story.
- Performance means it must be shared with/presented to an audience.

Spanish words and phrases are acceptable as long as the meaning is communicated in some way either through translations or context.

See below for definitions, links to readings/models, as well as resources, and platforms.

#### Grade Value:

Grades are based on the writing process:

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Proposal                 | 5 points  |
| • Rough Draft              | 10 points |
| • Peer Reviews             | 5 points  |
| • Final Draft              | 10 points |
| • Extra Credit Publication | 10 points |

#### Preparation:

1. REVIEW – genre terms below.
2. VIEW/READ – Five models of multimodal storytelling from the links below.
3. COMMENT – Leave comments about your reading experience for the authors.
4. DISCUSS – Discuss your experiences in your peer writing/critique digital community.

## 5. CHOOSE A STORY IDEA

Use a story you have already worked with in class or something new inspired by the models you viewed.

- A remembered event, travel narrative, tribute to someone, or profile.
- Personal essay that represents the writer personally, socially, culturally, ethnically, artistically, politically, professionally such as “This I believe,” an essay on the writer’s love of music.
- Autotopography
- Story Corps National Day of Listening Oral History Interview

## 6. BRAINSTORM

- What story will you use? Think of a title.
- Who will be in the story?
- What Images/materials will you use?
- What Text will you use?
- What technology will you use? (Check out free platforms below.)
- What Performance mode will you use?

## 7. WRITE A PROPOSAL – Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

- MLA
- Original title
- Story Theme (check theme list below)
- Synopsis:
  - Write a one-paragraph summary of the story: “This story is about...”
    1. Who is in the story?
    2. Where did it take place?
    3. When did it take place?
    4. What happened?
- In a separate paragraph answer these questions and be very specific
  1. What technology will you use?
  2. What images and how many?
  3. What text?
  4. How will you go about getting the story? Interview?
  5. How will you present/perform it?
- Turn it in for approval.

## 8. ROUGH DRAFT & PEER REVIEW – Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

- Once your proposal is approved, compose your rough draft.
- Post link or doc file of rough draft in your digital peer review group.
- Peer review all those in your group according to critique guidelines.

## 9. FINAL DRAFT & PRESENTATION

- Revise rough draft
- Class dates for presentations TBA
- Share Final Draft to Discussion Board –Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_
- Peer Review Comments

**MULTIMODAL MEMOIR SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICATION  
ON ESTA VIDA BORICUA  
EXTRA CREDIT**

**1. REVISE MULTIMODAL MEMOIR:**

- Incorporate critique suggestions.
- Check length – as close to five minutes as possible.
- Check grammar.
- Check spelling and including any Spanish usages.
- Check punctuation.
- Introductory page with byline and title only.

**2. DOWNLOAD FINAL DRAFT:**

- Digital file only (no links)

**3. LABEL FINAL DRAFT:**

- Title of your work and your name.  
i.e. *The Day I Found Freedom – Melanie Rodríguez*

**4. REVISE DESCRIPTION:– (doc or docx)**

Revise your original multimodal memoir proposal (500 words) in the following structure:

1. Title: The Day I Found Freedom by Melanie Rodríguez
2. Paragraph 1 (synopsis):
  - a. This is a story about...? and this is why I wanted to write it.
3. Paragraph 2 – (process):
  - a. This is the technology I used and this was my process.
4. Paragraph 3 - (reflection):
  - a. What I learned. How it impacted my life. How I feel about it.
5. Paragraph 4 – (Bio)
  - a. i.e. Melanie Rodríguez is a University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, 3<sup>rd</sup> year biology major from Juana Díaz studying to become a pediatric oncologist.
6. Paragraph 5 – Credits
  - a. Titles, authors, location(downloaded from?) Check the link for “Fair Use Guidelines.” <http://cmsimpact.org/program/fair-use/>

**5. LABEL DESCRIPTION FILE:**

- i.e. *The Day I Found Freedom Description– Melanie Rodríguez*

**6. PROFILE PHOTO**

- jpg or tiff – 600 resolution

**7. LABEL PHOTO FILE:**

- *Profile Photo - Melanie Rodríguez*

**8. OTHER MATERIALS**

- For those following Storycorps formula oral history: transcribe & translate interviews done in Spanish. Label and provide both doc(x) files.
- Label and provide audio/video recordings.
- Label photos and provide photo tags.

EMAIL TO: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Attach multimodal memoir final draft, description, photograph, and other materials.

2. In email subject box type: “The Day I Found Freedom by Melanie Rodríguez”
3. In the email message box type:
  - a. Full name, Course & section number
  - b. Contact information
  - c. Desired description tag for photographs.
4. Type: I give the editor permission to publish “The Day I Found Freedom” as limited by First North American Rights.

DEADLINE:\_\_\_\_\_

## GENRE TERMS

### **What is Life Narrative?**

A writer's autobiographical act, which includes memory, experience, identity, embodiment and agency. The writing of one's life. A non-canonic set of ever shifting self-referential practices that engages the past in order to reflect on identity in the present. (Smith & Watson)

### **What is Autotopography?**

writing prompted by the examination of artifacts that carry memory or the essence of the subject such as photographs.

### **What is Oral History?**

a mediated form of personal narrative. The writer is absent but controls the narrative.

### **What is Memoir?**

Unlike autobiography, which includes the entire span of one's life and generally written in the 1<sup>st</sup> person point of view, memoir focuses on a specific aspect or event in one's life. The narrator is both the participant and the observer. It can employ any of the craft elements we have worked with in class such as image, voice, point of view, characterization, setting, scene and dialogue, and story.

## DEFINITIONS

### **WHAT IS IMAGE?**

Some examples of image:

- Existing - Ancestral or family or personal photographs – ask your family
- Staged –photographs
- Digital or Analog illustrations, drawings, montage
- Animation
- Video

### **WHAT IS TEXT?**

Some examples of text:

- Key Words
- Phrases
- Poems
- Music
- Memoir excerpts
- Reflection or writing using artifacts/photographs as prompts (autotopography)
- Dialogue
- Voiceover Narration

### **WHAT IS PERFORMANCE?**

Some examples of performance:

- Uploading work into a public space such as a weblog, YouTube, voice thread, etc. and inviting spectators and responses.
- Visual (film, slideshow) projection with a live narrator in a public space.
- Visual (film, slideshow) projection with recorded narrator (video)

## TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS

Mashable - Six Free Sites to make Comic Strips

<http://mashable.com/2010/10/24/create-your-own-comics/>

50 Ways to Tell a Story – Alan Levine

<https://50ways.wikispaces.com/>

Storycorps – How to Interview

Do it Yourself (DIY) video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dohm3-plvv8>

Storycorps APP

<https://storycorps.me/>

Voicethread

<https://voicethread.com/products/highered/>

Animoto

(professor's account – ask me for username and password)

<https://animoto.com/>

## MODELS OF MULTIMODAL MEMOIRS

Esta Vida Boricua

<http://estavidaboricua.com/>

Pal Tanama – Never be Afraid – Jorge Martir – A story of overcoming fear.

<http://estavidaboricua.com/?p=4363>

The Day the Sun Stayed Sleeping – Cynthia Roman – A story of survival.

<http://estavidaboricua.com/?p=4423>

The Perfect Life of Eva, Edgardo Rios – a story of a grandmother

<http://estavidaboricua.com/?p=2965>

Haydee – Christian Rios – a story of overcoming great odds

<http://estavidaboricua.com/?p=4134>

Burning Love, Stephanie Sanchez - a story of betrayal

<http://estavidaboricua.com/?p=2447>

Enrique, Mariana Arroyo – A story of love

<http://estavidaboricua.com/?p=1340>

The Pilar of My family, Isaac Ramos – a story of a grandfather

<http://estavidaboricua.com/?p=1302>

## **OTHER EXAMPLES**

Participant/Observation - Wynne Maggi – (Personal Experience)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zo8xrY0XxT4>

Privilegio - Teresa Rodriguez (A grandmother's story)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsoH9L\\_VB90](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsoH9L_VB90)

Resaved - a digital story by Marie Lovejoy (A tribute)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZ0ouK6xBBA>

Animated Stories (Love, Loss, etc)

<http://storycorps.org/animation/>

This I Believe – Kilby (Essay)

<http://voicethread.com/?#q.b539713.i2889798>

Roger Maris & Bad Seats (A remembered event)

<http://voicethread.com/?#q.b2074.i21686>

## **LITERARY THEMES**

<https://literarydevices.net/a-huge-list-of-common-themes/>