

English 10 - *House of Leaves* Remix Assignment

Douglass / Pokornowski



Due: Tue Feb 27

- Create a remix of a specific page from *House of Leaves*
- Use online form to submit both your remix image and two short response essays (page description and remix analysis)

A “remix” is a version which has been altered -- extended, rearranged, added to and / or cut. The word “remix” commonly describes an altered song (whose tracks have been “mixed again”), and may also refer to remixed arts such as images, video, and literature. Techniques such as sampling in music, collage in visual art, montage in film, and cut-up in literature may all be used to remix.**

House of Leaves often presents pages as a mix of material. In this assignment, creatively remixing one page and then reflecting on that remix process is a way to explore *form-content* relationships in literature while thinking about *intertextuality* and *literature as media*.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Your remix will be evaluated on its engagement and labor, **not** on your artistic abilities or mastery of image editing. The assignment will be graded on the following criteria:

Creative Remix

Engages with the page in two or more ways, addresses the relation between form and content, significant labor evident (or made labor evident through explanation in form essays)

Short Essay Form

All form information must be filled out completely and correctly, including two short essays, one descriptive ("Describe the Page") and one critical ("Remix Analysis"). Write formally for the short essays, as you would for short essay questions on an exam.

This assignment is worth 10% of your course grade (~3pt Creative, 3pt Descriptive, 4pt Critical).

**The original version of this assignment was co-designed with Steven Pokornowski in 2014.*

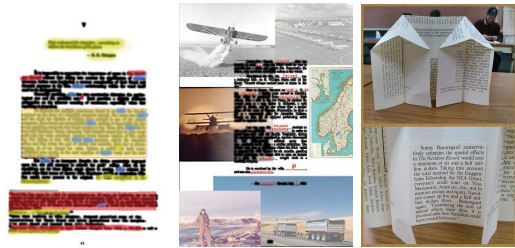
*** For more information on a broad understanding of remix see “[Remix Defined](#)” and [Remix Theory](#) by Eduardo Navas; see also [Remix Culture](#) by Lawrence Lessig.*

Create your Remix

To complete your remix you must creatively change the visual layout of the page -- rearrange, add to, or subtract from the visual appearance of one page from *House of Leaves*, creating a new image. Your new page should preserve aspects of the original page and comment on how that page presents, mediates, or complicates meaning.

You must do two or more of the following:

- rearrange the layout (cut / paste / fold)
- highlight
- delete (or strike out)
- add images / illustrations
- mark (write or draw)



For examples, see Appendix A: Examples (below)

Your changes must be substantial, reflect critically on the relation of form and meaning in the novel, and relate to important elements of the novel such as characters, events, or themes.

1. Choose a page.

Your page should interest you, both visually and in its story.

2. Acquire an image of your page.

You may either create your own image of that page (via digital camera / scanner, see FAQ), or you may download a blurred copy of your page (which respects copyright by obscuring the text) from *House of Layouts* (<http://houseoflayouts.org/>).

3. Remix your page.

Option 1: Digital Remix

Use an image editor to add annotations, illustrations, images, maps, or whatever else you imagine to remix your page. You can work with offline or online image editing programs, whichever you prefer.

- Offline: Adobe Photoshop and GIMP (the GNU Image Manipulation Program) are powerful but may require prior familiarity, using tutorials and documentation, and / or patience.
- Online: Many online image editors support image remixing; we currently recommend one of these robust and user-friendly options: pixlr.com; fotoflexor.com; or picmonkey.com.

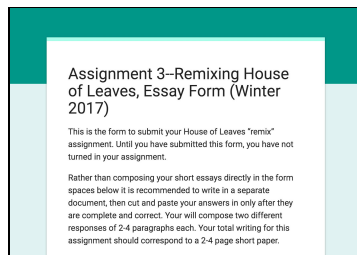
Option 2: “Digital” Remix

Using your fingers is the alternate “digital” route. You may print a paper page to remix by hand -- with highlighters, pens, scissors and glue, folding, burning, or whatever you find useful. You *must* to create a digital photo / scan of the final product in order to turn it in.

Submit your Short Essay Form

1. Go to the “Short Essay Form” online form.

<https://goo.gl/forms/1JfP1CAcygjYK3Xy1>

A thumbnail image of a document titled "Assignment 3--Remixing House of Leaves, Essay Form (Winter 2017)". The document has a teal header and a light blue background. The text inside the document reads: "This is the form to submit your House of Leaves 'remix' assignment. Until you have submitted this form, you have not turned in your assignment. Rather than composing your short essays directly in the form spaces below it is recommended to write in a separate document, then cut and paste your answers in only after they are complete and correct. Your will compose two different responses of 2-4 paragraphs each. Your total writing for this assignment should correspond to a 2-4 page short paper."

2. Attach your remix image as per the form instructions.

3. Compose your short essays. Rather than composing your short essays directly in the form spaces below it is recommended to write in a separate document, then cut and paste your answers in only after they are complete and correct. This will prevent accidental loss of your work and give you a backup copy of your assignment if there are any problems with submission.

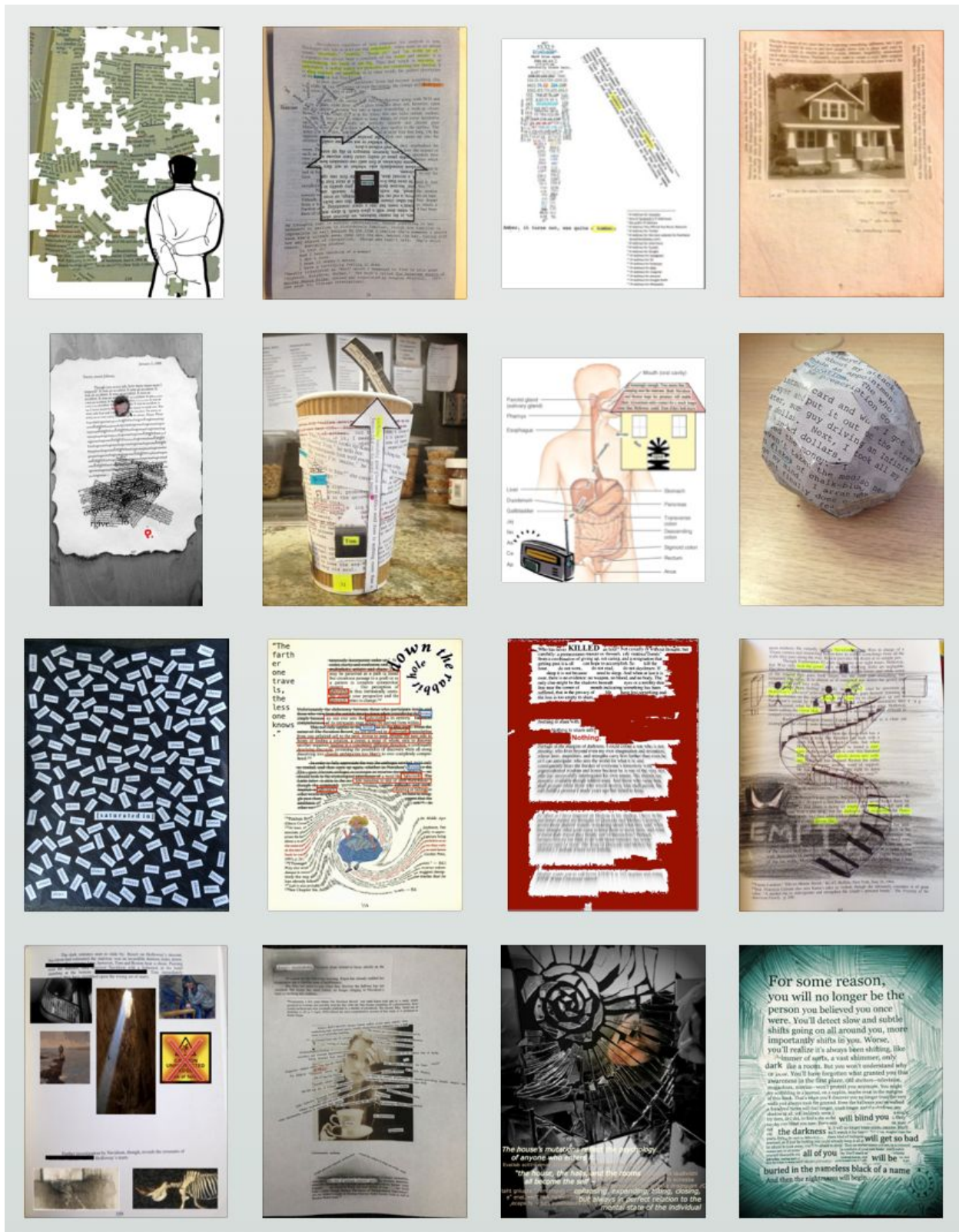
4. Complete the form and submit.

Appendix A: Examples

Recent Examples: English 10 Gallery

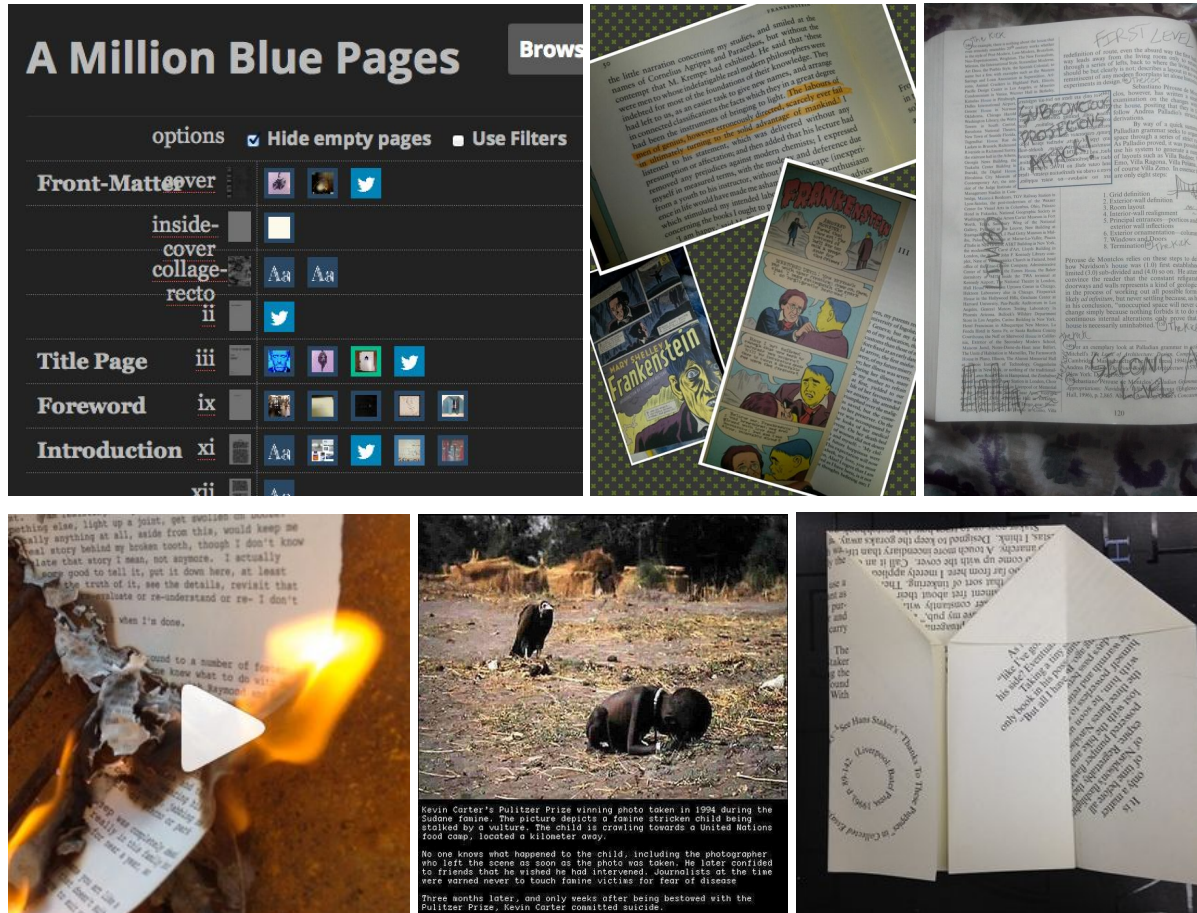
Browse a gallery of over 500 examples at: <http://english10introductiontolit.tumblr.com/>.

Examples are tagged with the page they refer to. Try a different approach -- or a page nobody has tried!



Related Examples: A Million Blue Pages

You can draw inspiration from a huge number of inspiring texts, images, video clips and sound files relating to [House of Leaves](http://House of Leaves pages) pages at amillionbluepages.net -- including your own (once you have posted it). Note that many of these examples not satisfy the requirements of this particular assignment.



A Million Blue Pages (AMBP) is “a platform conceived and designed to support a collaborative teaching project around the book, House of Leaves.” It currently hosts social media contributions eight different colleges and universities around the United States, as well as contributions from the social web -- including Vine, Tumblr, Twitter, and Instagram. Our class is contributing to AMBP through a single class Tumblr account.

Other Examples

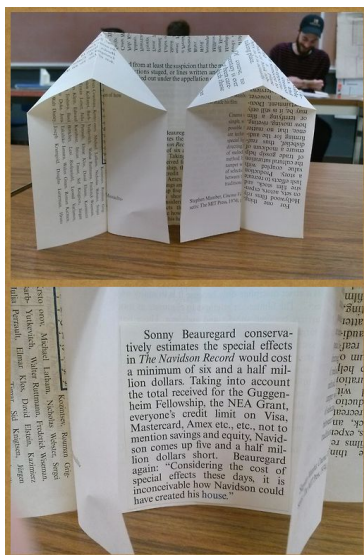
Early prototypes of using redaction, highlighting, photos, cut-ups, and folding in page remixes.



#p41



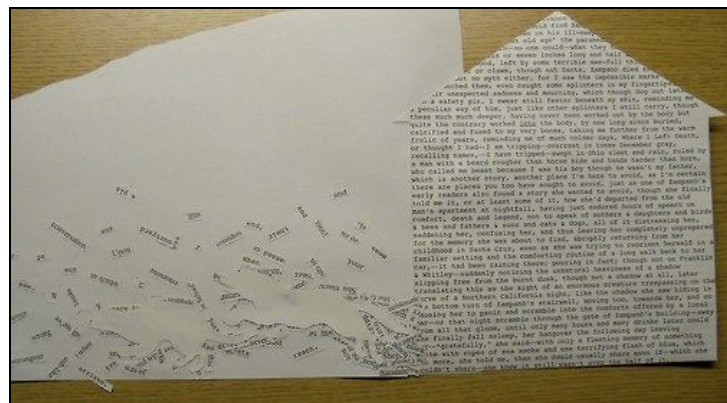
#p41



#p148



#p41



#p74 #p75

focus on these words, and whatever you do, don't let your eyes wander past this page. beyond your peripheral vision, behind you, to the side of you, even in front of you, right where you can't see it, something is quietly closing in on you, so quiet you can only hear it as silence. That's where it is. Right at this moment. But don't look. Keep your eyes here. deep breath. take an even deeper one. try to imagine how fast it will happen, how hard it's gonna hit you, how many times it will stab your jugular with its teeth or are they nails?, before you have time to even process that you should be moving, you should be running, you should at the very least be flinging up your arms—you sure as hell should be getting rid of this book—you won't have time to even scream.

Don't look.
I didn't.
Of course I looked.

#p26 #p27

Appendix B: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Will people online be able to see my remix, and will it be identified as mine or anonymous?

Remix images (not essays) will be publicly viewable online, and anonymous (not identified with your name or email address). Do not include personal identifying information in your remix image unless you wish to. If you wish to take public credit for your remix please do -- you may choose to sign the image.

What if I submit my Short Essay Form without completing it?

You may be able to revise your submission, however once the form is collected all errors are final and you will face the same consequences as if you turned any other incomplete assignment. Be sure to answer all questions and to double check that you are satisfied with your answers before submitting.

How can I submit an image of my page if I choose to remix it by hand?

You can take a picture with a camera (or a cell phone-camera), or make a copy from a scanner or a photocopier that is able save a digital scan to usb stick or email a digital scan to you. See the UCSB Library for digital scanning options.

Can I actually fold, cut up, or create something with an actual page, as a statement on its content?

Absolutely. Be creative and have fun. Be sure to leave some specific aspects of the original page -- e.g. a piece of paper crumpled up in a tight ball isn't a specific remix, because it could be any page (from any book!). We have given you some interestingly crafty examples in the gallery.

Can I submit more than one image?

You must submit the form only once, but you may attach multiple images of the same page remix to one form submission -- for example, to show a sculpture from multiple angles. This is not required!

Can I remix more than one page?

No, you must work primarily within the constraints of one page to reimagine it and explain how that specific page works -- however, as in other forms of remix, you may incorporate outside materials -- including words, images, ideas, footnotes, or design features from other pages of *House of Leaves* pages (or from outside the book).

Whom do I contact if my question is not answered here?

First, reread this document and FAQ to make sure that your question is not answered in the directions. If you still feel that you have questions that need to be addressed, contact your section lead.