

# **WRTG 121 Composition II: Researching the Public Experience**

## **Eastern Michigan University**

### **Teaching an Outcome: Multimodal Design**

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#### **Multimodal Design**

The concept of multimodal design is of particular importance in the Age of Technology. Whether in academic pursuits, professional pursuits, or personal pursuits, technology is more than likely going to be involved to some degree. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to prepare students for creating projects that are multimodal. The ability to write in multimodal media will enable students a necessary skill set for their writing moving forward as they learn to write effectively in electronic spaces.

#### **Lesson Plan**

The lesson on the topic of multimodal design will be addressed through a discussion fostered through an in-class activity.

The discussion questions are listed below.

- How and where do you write?
- How do you write to fit the genre expectations?
- How does your writing style change based on your purpose?

#### **Activity: The Twitter Task**

The Twitter tasks asks students to tweet their essay topics in order to teach multimodality and to teach theses through everyday writing techniques. The activity begins by explaining what information is expected in a thesis compared to what information is expected in a tweet. In a Google doc open to the whole class, students will be asked to tweet their topic or thesis the way they would write a tweet: maximum of 280 characters, use of modern vernacular, use of @ and # where appropriate. By using a modern means of communication to teach thesis writing, students are able to make connections to real world situations. Furthermore, it enables students to view their topic more actively by asking them to use it in a more engaging manner. And lastly, it enables students to use a method they are comfortable with to write a thesis statement that can then be incorporated into their research paper.

A sample of The Twitter task is available [here](#).

## **Suggested Readings**

“21<sup>st</sup>-Century Literacies”. National Council of Teachers of English, 2007. Accessed 10 December 2019.

Selfe, Richard and Selfe, Cynthia. “ ‘Convince Me!’ Valuing Multimodal Literacies and Composing Public Service Announcements”, pp. 83-86. *Theory Into Practice*, Vol. 47 No. 2, pp. 83-92, Digital Literacies in the Age of Sight and Sound. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40071528>. Accessed 10 December 2019.