

Assignment #4 (Due October 20th @ 4pm)

Assignment Text:

When developing this seminar, I wanted to include an assignment that allowed for some creative writing – there's no reason a class about humor shouldn't have some fun writing. So, here's the creative assignment!

Over the past few weeks, we have been experimenting with various kinds of sensory humor, with a focus on visual humor and how it relates to topics that we've been studying.

For this assignment, you will write a **~1-2 page creative piece followed by a ~1-2 page reflection** on visual humor. This assignment is broken down into two parts, as described below.

Part I: The Creative Portion (1-2 pages)

For this part of the assignment, choose one of the following four options, which are roughly equivalent in complexity. Try to make something that you (or your roommate, or your family, or...) would find funny, if you saw it elsewhere. If you want, you can make it about this course.

OPTION A: Caption 3 comics from the selection on Canvas (to be uploaded). Some will require you to fill in speech bubbles, others will ask to write a one-line caption.

OPTION B: Draw 2-3 of your own comics. One of the comics must include some linguistic element (speech bubble, one-line caption, etc.).

OPTION C: Perform 3-4 minutes of your own stand-up! Try to include some visual component, whether it be your stage presence, a prop, a presentation, or something else.

OPTION D: Open-ended: please email John with your intended idea by Thursday, October 12th @ 4pm. The complexity should be equivalent to the other options, and the idea should have significant interaction with visual humor.

On October 19th, we will have a little bonanza, where everyone will share the creative portion of their assignments with the class. I will MC the event.

Part II: The Analysis Portion (1-2 pages)

For this part of the assignment, you will write a brief reflection on your creative piece(s). Some questions that you should consider (but not all that you *can* consider) include:

- What was your process? How did you arrive to your final position? What were some ideas that failed? What were some close alternatives that didn't make the cut?
- How did you use ideas that we discussed in class to inform your decisions?
- How might McCloud analyze your use of visuals? What might he say? Provide a specific example or two from your text.

Your reflection should be thoughtfully organized -- don't just list a bunch of answers to the questions above! The writing does not need to be formal, but it should be coherent and clear.