

Daily Notecard Drawings

Each class period, as a way of marking attendance and priming us for the day's work, we will begin with a daily notecard drawing. If you forget a notecard or drawing utensil, you may grab one from the green container on your way in.

Taking a cue from Lynda Barry's *Making Comics*, you will draw a panel, include your name, date, and pronouns on the outside of the panel. Then, you will be provided with a prompt, and draw for the entirety of a song's length (typically 3-4 minutes).

Afterwards, two or three students will share the teaching stage. Each of these student will take turns sharing their drawing and their alignment (or deviation) from the prompt. Afterwards, we will talk about what we liked about the comic. This is not an art studio-style critique, but rather, an opportunity to learn from each other, delight in spontaneous drawings, and highlight what comics elements make us smile or spark our thinking.

Students will keep these notecards throughout the class period, in case we do reflective writing on the backs of the notecards. At the end of class, you will turn the notecard in to the green container on the desk.

Weekly 1pg comics & student write-ups

Each week, you will create a 1pg comic (8.5"x11") and a 250w critical reflection on what you created. These will be turned in every Sunday by 11:59pm EST. Then, comment & engage with two peers' comics by class on Tuesday. This will be our core loop of critically-making & sharing work within our community.

The comic can be:

- Black & white, or in color.
- Digital or hand-drawn.

You have four options. **ONLY COMPLETE ONE!**

1. Graphic Review:

1. 1pg Graphic Review for one of our primary texts, covering:

1. Short summary of the reading
2. 1-2 main concepts in your own words & images
3. 1 visual strategy the author used that you liked/want to use!
4. 1-2 questions you still have about the text (think: open-ended)
5. 1 point you want to dig into more (think: "Needs to be unpacked").

2. Texts: *Unflattening* (full); *Making Comics*; *INFINITUM*; *Murder of Emmett Till*; *CL/YA Comics* by Gwen Tarbox; *Graphic Medicine Manifesto* (INTRO); 1 comic from *COVID Chronicles*; *El Deafo*; *Marbles*; *FIGHTS*;

2. Graphic Definition:

1. 1pg illustrated definition of one key term from class demonstrating:

1. The phrase being defined
2. The definition in your own terms
3. Visual examples of the term
4. Your personal connection/reflections to the term
5. Questions you have about the term
6. Why it matters; why is it important?

2. Key terms: *Unflattening*; *Visual Rhetoric*; *Afrofuturism*; *Gender*; *Sexuality*; *Representation*; *Intersectionality*; *Critical-Making*; *Children's/Young Adult Comics*; *Refugee*; *Memoir*; *Graphic Medicine*; *Digital Humanities*; *Wikidata*; *Superhero*; *Disability*; *Cognition*; *Race*.

3. Graphic Medicine:

1. Create a 1pg entry of Graphic Medicine -- infographic, educational comic, graphic report, etc.
2. This *must* use a source from a reputable & reliable site: .gov, .edu, academic journal, etc.

4. COVID Chronicle about your experience during the last year and a half.

1. This can be memoir/personal, it can be fictional, it can be an illustrated diary.
2. In your reflection, talk about how this relates to Graphic Medicine or how it was inspired by a particular COVID Chronicle entry.

Mid-Term Critical Creation: 4pg Graphic Narrative & 3pg Authorial Statement

Prompt:

For this assignment, you will engage in an act of critical creation by creating your own 4pg graphic narrative and 3pg author's statement as a demonstration of your understanding of visual and literary conventions. The purpose of this assignment is for you to showcase your learning to its fullest extent by making a critical product, taking your place among the community of authors and creators we have studied this semester. This assignment should expand upon one of your 1pg comics from class, but does not have to.

Graphic Narrative options:

- Graphic Definition of one critical term from the second half of class:
 - Demonstrate thoughtful engagement/examples/critiques/demonstrations of a key term in comics form.
- Critical Review of one graphic narrative from ENG 325's Graphic Medicine Unit
 - Demonstrate how both visual AND textual elements depict one theme/idea within the graphic narrative.
- 4-pg Graphic Medicine entry:
 - Can be an educational comic or a graphic memoir related to healthcare/illness/wellness/therapy; etc.
 - Must include at least one credible, scientific/medical source: .gov, .edu, academic articles, etc.
- 4-pg COVID Chronicle entry:
 - Should be by you, about you, and about your experiences during the pandemic.
 - Include a specific day/month/year stamp if relevant for your comic.

Authorial Statement:

- 1000w Critical Analysis
 - Description of the comic: overview and visual/textual approaches [250 words]
 - Analysis of visual and textual rhetoric in the comic w/evidence [500 words]
 - i.e. close reading of own comic
 - Significance/Purpose of the comic [250 words]

Grading:

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE: 60%	AUTHORIAL STATEMENT: 40%
Content (what it is & connections to class and prompts): 20%	Description section, 250w: 10%
Organization & craft (overall polish: inked; few typos; uploaded cleanly): 20%	Critical analysis section, 500w: 20%
Application & Growth (applied lessons & feedback from assignments & peers): 20%	Purpose & Significance, 250w: 10%

Final Project: 12pg Comic & Virtual Presentation

For this assignment, you will engage in an act of critical creation by revising one of your own 4pg comics into a 12pg graphic narrative as a demonstration of your understanding of visual and literary conventions. You will then create a short 1-2 minute video introducing your comic that will be shared online in a whole-class virtual exhibit. Finally, you will receive a printed copy of your comic, and have an opportunity to donate a printed copy to the MSU Comic Arts Collection for future comics students & library patrons to read through, learn from, and enjoy.

The purpose of this assignment is for you to demonstrate your growth over the semester, as well as your ability to apply course concepts and critical-making lessons into a final, polished, finished project that is intended for a public audience.

12-pg Graphic Narrative

It must include:

- Pg. 1: Front Cover
 - Title of the comic & your name
- 6-8pgs Graphic Narrative
 - Minimum 6 pages; can be up to 8pgs if you want to show more of your art work.
 - Previous Critical Creation, expanded and updated based on feedback.
- 2-4pgs Authorial Statement
 - Minimum of 1250w: This will be your previous authorial statement, revised based on my and peers' feedback, and expanded to address your new content.
 - Minimum of two pages within your comic book – I don't want you to cram 1250w on a 5"x7" single page, as your audience won't be able to read it.
- Pg 12: Back Cover
 - Your name, created for ENG 325, publication year, contact/site/social, and a creative commons license.
 - ex. *Justin Wigard, created for ENG 325, 2021, @JustinWigard, (CC BY-SA 4.0).*
- Should be 5"x7" and 300dpi resolution in order to be printed by the MSU Library.

1-2min Introductory Video

This will comprise the last component of your graphic narrative project. You will create a 1-2 minute video to accompany the digital version of your comic. A suggested format is:

- (15-30s) Introduces yourself, whatever that looks like (about 30s)
- (30s) Introduces your comic: title, content, why your topic, what readers can expect
- (30s) Sells them on the comic: why do we care? why is it important to you?
- (15s) Contact information to get ahold of you in the future
- Upload the video to Youtube or Kaltura, and share the link when submitting 12pg comic.

Grading: 40pts

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE: 50%	AUTHORIAL STATEMENT (1250w): 40%	COMICS VIDEO: 10%
Content (what it is & connections to class and prompts): 15%	Description of comic (approach, content, structure), 250w: 10%	Introduces yourself: 2.5%
Organization & craft: polished, inked; typo-free; uploaded): 15%	Critical analysis of your GN w/evidence from GN, 5000w 10%	Explains your comic: 2.5%
Growth (applied feedback from assignments & peers): 15%	Objective/critical Significance, 250w: 10%	Shares why this comic is important: 2.5%
Meets min requirements: 12pgs, covers, comics, essay: 5%	Explains why this comic matters to you personally (250w): 10%	Is under 2 minutes: 2.5%