

EN 101 Lesson Plan

Unit Two: The Memoir

THE MEMOIR AND MULTIMODALITY

Materials Needed

Multimodal Assignment Sheet, Essay examples for activity, student laptops

Objective

1. Learn about multimodality and identify multimodal essays
2. Discuss ways that we can remix our own memoir essays for ePortfolio

Writing Assignment

It was an ordinary day. Details are key to effective writing whether your writing a personal narrative, business letter, or academic research paper.

Imagine that immediately upon leaving this class, your hair is suddenly glossy and impeccable healthy. Your skin is dewy and unblemished, no sign of any unsightly zits or stray, mutant hairs. Your eyes sparkle knowingly with untapped potential. Your senses are dialed to 11. As you step into the hall at 4:16 p.m., it hits you. You're the protagonist in a novel.

But this writing assignment happens before then. For right now, you're just regular, old you. Today is just an ordinary day.

Describe this moment using sensory details. Where are you, and why are you here? What are you doing? What do you hear/smell/taste/see? What color is the room? What do the lights look like? How do you feel? What are you touching? Remember, you're just sitting here, so this won't have a lot of action. Fill up your paragraph with details that put the reader in the room with you.

Your first sentence is "It was an ordinary day." First-person is okay. Write this in past tense (like a regular novel). No use of "you."

Whole-Class Mini-Lecture

Define "multimodal."

Watch short Youtube video on multimodality.

Explain the multimodal element for memoir.

Transition into multimodal examples. Websites are multimodal on their own because of textual elements, headers, etc. I want you to dig deeper.

Specific Questions

What stands out to you about this essay?

How did the author or designer use multimodal elements?

Was this more or less effective than a plain, printed essay? Why? Why not?

What are some potential issues with multimodal assignments?

- Accessibility
- Distracting

Small-Group Activity (15-20 mins)

Students will break into groups and search the Internet for examples of memoir essays with multimodal elements. This will help develop some research skills and encourage students to use their judgement about what makes an interesting memoir and what elements enhance the memoir.

Student Instructions

1. Piece of paper: Name, Title of Essay, Website, answer questions
2. Find an essay on a website - suggest Medium, Salon, The Cut, The Atlantic
3. Discuss and identify multimodal elements if used.
4. Choose a multimodal element that would add to this essay.
5. What multimodal essay would be the least effective?

Large Group (10-15 mins)

1. Present essay - introduce author, summarize, and any context
2. Explain which multimodal element would work
3. Why did you choose it? How would that add to the essay?

Homework

Read assigned reading on course schedule. Pick 2-3 multimodal elements that might enhance your own essay/ePortfolio. Write a sentence about each explaining why you would use this element. Submit to Blackboard before the start of next class.