

Nonfiction Book Project

Critical Reading and Writing

Part 1: Please write well-organized and well-developed paragraph responses for the following questions about your book. Responses must be typed and formatted in MLA style.

1. Provide basic information on your book, the author, and its publication. Who is the author and how is he or she connected to the subject matter? You may look up information on your author if it is not provided in the book itself. Be sure to properly document any sources that you cite.
2. Provide a summary of the book's content. This must be in your own words. Please limit the summary to two-paragraphs.
3. What is the main purpose and argument of the book? Remember, this is different than the topic. What is the main idea that the author is trying to convey *about* the topic? Explain this.
4. Write a one-paragraph reaction/response to the book. Did you enjoy reading it? What did you/didn't you like about the book?

Part 2: You must choose ONE of the following options below.

1. Script and record a podcast promoting the book

Write a promotion for the book that includes the setting, the situation, information about the author, and the central conflict or theme. Write it in a way that you advertise or promote

the book to potential readers—like a movie trailer in audio form—using a program like Audacity or Garage Band. You should use effects, music, or anything else that helps set the mood for your book talk. You may recruit other people (parents, siblings, etc.) to help you record. You may play your podcast for the class. Please save it in mp3 format and email it to me by the deadline so we can test it out ahead of time. (lrozema@grcs.org) Your podcast should be 3-4 minutes.

If you have questions about the script or if you need help using the technology, please ask!

Helpful link to everything you need to know about podcasting, as well as examples of podcast book talks; Google [Secondary Worlds](#) and go to the podcast link. There are plenty of online resources for helping you with this project.

2. Compose a digital story

Your digital story will give the audience a sense for the book and the author's main arguments by using appropriate pictures, text, and sound/music. You should promote the book just like movie trailers promote movies. Use music and pacing to set the mood. Software like iMovie and Movie Maker are good ones that you likely have access to already. Apply what you know about lighting and camera angles. Digital stories should be between 3-4 minutes. You may be required to show them in class.

There are a lot of sites that have digital story resources. Here are a few to get you started.

Digital Storytelling: A Tutorial in 10 Easy Steps

<http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/techplan/page5897.cfm>

Seven Steps to Create a Digital Story

http://www.digitales.us/resources/seven_steps.php

3. Write a research paper about one aspect of the book you found interesting.

For example, if you read Diet Eman's book, you could research one of the camps she lived in, the Canadians' role in WWII, Hitler and the Nazis, ration cards and ID cards, etc. You should choose a focused topic that is directly related to your book, and you should include information from your book to show how your paper relates to it. You should have a thesis, or a main statement of purpose, and good organization and style.

Papers should be 3-4 pages typed, double spaced, (size 12 Times New Roman) with a sources documented in the text as well as in a works cited page in proper MLA format.

4. Write another chapter for your book. (Or, rewrite the ending.)

You should number or title the chapter accordingly (ex: 9 ½ if it fits between 9 and 10), and in addition to writing the chapter, you should write a brief (1/4 page) explanation of how this chapter fits in the book and why you chose it. If you choose to rewrite the ending, explain in a separate paragraph why you feel the ending should be rewritten. I would like you to try to imitate the style or voice of the author as much as possible so that your chapter fits with the book as seamlessly as possible. Also include a ¼ page explaining what choices with the language you made in order to imitate the style of the author.

Your chapter should be at least 3-4 pages typed, double spaced.

5. Keep a blog about your book.

Set up a blog at Wordpress.com or another blogging site. You will use the blog to post reactions, questions, insights, etc. that you have about the book. Include links to other articles or sites on the web that relate to your book. Do not write summary, but rather reaction and response. The following are just some ideas of things you may post on your blog. You will be graded on depth of content, appearance of your blog, and frequency of your posts.

- Connections between the book's content and contemporary news stories
- Reaction to ideas raised in the book
- Whether you agree/disagree with points the author raises
- Reaction/response to characters in the book
- Pictures of the events or people mentioned in the book
- Link and response to reviews of the book

You will turn in your url.

Projects are due: _____

