Perceptions & Reality:
Sports, Entertainment & Technology

ENG 104
Dr. Alison Witte

WHAT IS REALITY?

In *The Running Man*, we see "reality" TV in which Ben Richards competes on shows designed to appear realistic, and which has real consequences for him and many others, but which are clearly manipulated to present the "Running Man" in a certain way. In Ben's case, he is presented as violent, degenerate and as the villain on the show, despite the fact that the show employs someone whose job is to hunt Ben down and kill him. The hunters are depicted as the heroes. From this story, and from many of our own experiences, we can see how "reality" can be controlled and manipulated by the images, words, and sounds we connect to them. Thus, how we think of particular people, places, ideas, etc. can be shaped by the messages in the world around us.

This project asks you to choose a topic connected to sports, entertainment (films, video games, movies, music) or technology and to both explore how that concept is presented in various forms in the media (television, films, music, magazines, ads, social media, etc.) and to present a visual argument that challenges how your topic is presented and provides alternate depictions to create a more detailed, well-rounded picture of the reality surrounding the concept you choose.

ASSIGNMENT

There are 2 parts to this assignment. Part 1 is a large-scale visual argument that makes a claim about how you see the reality surrounding the concept you choose, and shows the limitations of how the concept is generally presented to the general public. You will need to collect and/or create various images/depictions of your topic to determine how it is generally presented. Then, you will need to look for/create alternative perspectives and demonstrate how these perspectives expand how people can think about your topic.

Once you have collected your images, you'll need to design your visual argument. Your visual argument should make use of images, text, color, size, image placement, etc. to emphasize certain points and convey your general message about how your topic is generally presented in media and what that presentation omits and what you think is a more realistic presentation.

Your visual presentation needs to include at least 10 images. You will need to include a photo of your completed visual argument with your completed portfolio.

Part 2 is a 3-4 page textual version of your visual argument. It is meant to accompany the visual project and to present details or information that is more easily conveyed by text than visual images. This portion of the project should have a thesis that presents your argument about how your concept is represented and how you feel that representation is inaccurate or limited.

Your textual version should cite at least 5 sources that support your claims about how topics are depicted or why they are depicted a particular way.

You will need to compose both parts of the assignment at the same time so that they work together and present a coherent argument.

STARTING POINTS

- What images do you see when you think about?

Athletes	City-life
Students	Rural Life
Nerds	College
Gamers	Fame
Musicians	Religion
Families	Success
Men	Work
Women	Communication

- Where do your ideas come from?
- What might other people think about when they thing about this topic? Why?
- Where do the differences come from?
- What would you like other people to see, know, or understand when it comes to your topic?

FORMAT

The visual part of your Perceptions & Reality: Sports, Entertainment & Technology project should be large-scale (poster or display-board size). You can create a physical collage or you can use photo editing software to create a digital collage. Whichever method you choose, you must have a color display suitable for an exhibit which we will do as your Final Exam.

The textual part of your Perceptions & Reality: Sports, Entertainment & Technology should follow standard writing conventions and the following format:

- You will need to give your project an interesting and relevant title (Not Visual Argument).
- Your paper needs to have a heading in MLA style
- Your paper needs to have a header in MLA style
- Your paper should be double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and 11 or 12 point font. Please use standard fonts such as Calibri or Times New Roman.
- You need to cite your sources in MLA style and include an MLA style Works Cited page.
  - THE WORKS CITED PAGE DOES NOT COUNT IN THE PAGE REQUIREMENT.

Last Name Page #

Your Name

Professor's Name

Class Name

Day Month Year

<div align="center">Title</div>

Paper, paper, paper, paper…………………………………………………………………………………………………..

IMPORTANT DATES

- 4/11   In-progress project for Teacher Review (Moodle & Include a photo of your visual argument)
- 4/20   Last Day to submit revisions for Teacher Review (EMAIL ONLY)
- 4/22   REVISED project for Workshop (Moodle & Include a photo of your visual argument)

ASSESSMENT

The rubric below will be used to assess it when it is submitted in your portfolio.

	Content	Organization & Purpose	Presentation	Requirements
An A Project (112.5-125 points)	• Clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology both visually and textually • Clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic • Selects appropriate images to make claims about how the topic is generally presented and appropriate images that argue for additional, broader depictions of the topic • Supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources	• Has a clear thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic • Uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing • Uses transitions or directions for the reader that are clear and easy to follow • Uses image choice, placement, size and color to make a clear argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic	• Correctly cites sources in MLA • Includes a correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page • Is relatively free of minor grammar and spelling errors and contains no major errors • Images are of good quality and easy to see, read and identify	• Meets the length requirement • Includes at least 5 academic sources • Includes at least 10 images
A B Project (100-112 points)	• Mostly clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology both visually and textually with a few spots where the topic is unclear • Mostly clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with a few spots that are unclear or need more information • Mostly selects appropriate images to make claims about how the topic is generally presented and appropriate images that argue for additional, broader depictions of the topic with a few images that are confusing or seem unrelated • Supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with a few spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made	• Has a clear thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic, but the thesis could be clearer in a few spots • Usually uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but has a few spots where the integration is awkward • Usually uses transitions or directions for the reader that are clear and easy to follow, but has a few spots where more direction is needed • Usually uses image choice, placement, size and color to make a clear argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with a few spots where the logic or path of the argument is not appropriate or confusing	• Correctly cites sources in MLA with only a few minor errors • Includes a correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with only a few minor errors • Is generally free of minor grammar and spelling errors and contains no major errors • Images are mostly of good quality and easy to see, read and identify with a few lapses	• Meets the length requirement • Includes at least 5 academic sources • Includes at least 10 images

	Content	Organization & Purpose	Presentation	Requirements
A C Project (87.5-99.5 points)	• Generally clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology both visually and textually with some spots where the topic is unclear • Generally clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with some spots that are unclear or need more information • Generally selects appropriate images to make claims about how the topic is generally presented and appropriate images that argue for additional, broader depictions of the topic with some images that are confusing or seem unrelated • Generally supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with some spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made	• Has thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented but doesn't make a clear claim about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic, OR the rest of the paper does not always support that claim • Generally uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but needs to use them throughout • Is somewhat easy to follow, but has many spots where transitions or directions to the reader could be more direct, or spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section are unclear as a part of the whole project • Generally uses image choice, placement, size and color to make a clear argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with some spots where the logic or path of the argument is not appropriate or confusing	• Correctly cites at least 4 of 5 sources in MLA with a some minor and a few major errors • Includes a mostly correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with some minor errors and no more than 1 major errors • Has some minor grammar and spelling errors and a few major errors • Images are generally of good quality and easy to see, read and identify with some lapses	• Meets the length requirement • Includes at least 5 academic sources • Includes at least 10 images
A D Project (75-87 points)	• Somewhat clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology both visually and textually with many spots where the topic is unclear • Somewhat clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with many spots that are unclear or need more information • Somewhat selects appropriate images to make claims about how the topic is generally presented and appropriate images that argue for additional, broader depictions of the topic with many images that are confusing or seem unrelated • Somewhat supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with many spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made	• Has thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented but doesn't make a claim about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic, OR the rest of the paper does not support that claim • Minimally uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but needs to use them throughout • Is not easy to follow, and has several spots where transitions or directions to the reader are needed, and/or some spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section are unclear as a part of the whole project • Somewhat uses image choice, placement, size and color to make an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with many spots where the logic or path of the argument is not appropriate or confusing	• Correctly cites no more than 2 of the sources in MLA with many minor and a few major errors • Includes an incorrectly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with many minor and some major omissions or errors • Has several minor and some major grammar and spelling errors • Images are somewhat of good quality and easy to see, read and identify with many lapses	• Does not meet the length requirement • Does not includes at least 5 academic sources • Does not include at least 10 images

	Content	Organization & Purpose	Presentation	Requirements
An F Project (Less than 75 points)	• Minimally or never identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology both visually and textually with numerous spots where the topic is unclear • Minimally or never makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with numerous spots that are unclear or need more information • Minimally or never selects appropriate images to make claims about how the topic is generally presented or appropriate images that argue for additional, broader depictions of the topic with numerous images that are confusing or seem unrelated • Minimally or never supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with numerous spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made	• Has no clear thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented and doesn't make a claim about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic • Rarely or never uses signal phrases to incorporate cited material • Is not easy to follow because it is missing transitions or directions to the reader OR Is not easy to follow because it has too many spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section is unclear as a part of the whole project • Minimally or never uses image choice, placement, size and color to make an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with numerous spots where the logic or path of the argument is not appropriate or confusing	• Correctly cites no more than 2 of the sources in MLA with many major errors • Includes an incorrectly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with major omissions or errors OR includes no Works Cited page • Has many minor and several major grammar and spelling errors	• Does not meet the length requirement • Does not include at least 4 citations from academic sources • Does not include one cited summary