ReMix Literature and Culture Capstone Project

For this project you will be taking all you have learned throughout the semester in order to produce a final creative synthesis.

The project is based on the remixing of literature. Going along with what we are learning from people such as Lawrence Lessig and Austin Kleon, most of what we know is inspired by what has already been done. This holds true with much of pop culture, and it certainly holds true with literature.

For this project you will choose a topic found in literature. If you like zombie movies and books, you might start with Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. If you like vampires, maybe you would look into Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*. If you like a good romance, start with some Jane Austen. The point is, you need to be interested in your choice because this is going to take up the majority of your reading this semester.

Your project has five components:

Reading

Research

Evaluation

Synthesis

Production

It all starts with the story, so **reading** is, of course, the heart of this project.

Right after the reading comes your **research**. You will need to discover all you can about the time and culture in which the piece(s) were written. You will want to look at the biography of the author and take into consideration what was happening in his/her life as well.

Once you’ve obtained your facts, you will want to **evaluate** what you’ve learned. Culturally what were the factors that would influence the creation of the work? Were there aspects of technology that impacted the success of the work? What other works were popular at the time? How is that reflected in the work itself?

After researching your works and the society that produced them, it’s time to **synthesize** all your information. What trends have you seen? What were the major impacts of the work(s) on society? Can you make any inferences about the importance of inspiration in the creative process?

The final component to your project is the **production** of your presentation in order to demonstrate what you’ve learned. I expect your presentation to run about ten minutes and you can choose whatever multi-media format works best for you (except power point).

Assessment for the project will come in four forms:

* You will need to meet the deadlines for your reading throughout the semester.
* You will need to be blogging weekly about your discoveries.
* You will need to incorporate one other media form in your presentation - TV, movies, videos, etc. to further enhance your ideas of impact and interpretation
* You will need to create your final product by the deadline given.

My Requirements:

* You will need to blog once a week about the book you are reading and the research you are doing.
* You will need to include specifics within your blog that indicate you are truly doing what is expected of you.
* Of course, I will not have fully read all of the works you are reading, but I will be researching along with you to get as much information about your projects as possible.

Also:

* You will be required to keep up with a second blog. This blog will be a journal of sorts - purely exploratory and interest driven.
  + I would like you to add something relevant to it that pertains to our class every week. In other words, this blog is about keeping your eyes and ears open for anything that will enhance our understanding of “remix culture.”
  + Again, you need to use your best judgment regarding the content you include as I’m hoping to publish this blog to the worldwide public.

I’m open to other suggestions as well, and I promise I’ll try to get us in the lab as much as possible to ensure you have time to work on this throughout the semester; however, **this is your nightly homework.** You will need to set your own reading schedule to meet your deadlines and make sure you blog by the set deadlines. We will work with Mrs. Harris from the Learning Commons to help us decide what topic/genre we would like to pursue, and you will need to let me know of your decision by **Friday, February 8**. Our first work will need to be read by **Thursday, Feb. 28,** our second work by **Thursday, March 28**, and our third book must be read by **Thursday, April 18**. This gives you about three weeks per book and three weeks before the project is due.