Overview

A graphic essay is defined as a visual that uses color, symbol, and words to make a unified statement. Make sure that the pieces of your graphic essay all work towards proving your thesis.

The goal of this graphic essay is to synthesize and organize details and ideas from the text. The primary purpose of the graphic essay is the help you analyze the "how" and the "why" of the text, not to produce an art product. Although neatness and creativity count, artistic ability does not.

Requirements

1. **Thesis statement** concerning a thematic statement developed from the text and connecting it to the symbol(s) (see #2). Match your interests to the task.

2. **Unifying symbol or symbols**. Symbol(s) arise(s) naturally from the text and connects it to the thesis. You symbol(s) may not be mentioned in the text, but the connection between it (them) and the text should be meaningful and explicit in every analysis. Symbols can be a 2-D or 3-D object.

3. **Color** used in a rational way; remember that color can be used symbolically and/or as an organizational device.

4. **Evidence** from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and/or specific references to the text (with line numbers clearly cited in MLA format). Include quotes from the range of the play. You should include at least one quote from each act and seek a balance from all five acts overall.

5. *For a higher score,* **Nonfiction Source** (news, textbook, biography, etc.). If you are going this route, consider connecting your symbol and its elements to a nonfiction representation and justifying it with the nonfiction source.

6. **Analysis** for each bit of evidence. Analysis in this graphic essay must connect the dots between your thesis as well as your symbol. If you're going for full credit, make sure your analysis is compelling and persuasive, putting your ideas in the context of the whole world.

7. **Presentability.** You will be sharing your work with the class. Make sure your graphic essay is large enough to be visible from a distance. *You will not have time to explain everything to the class; however, do make sure that your written work clearly explains all the connections and symbolism you intend.*

8. **Works Cited Page** in MLA format. Include the nonfiction source, if used.

9. You may work solo, with a partner, or with a group of three. Your work should reflect (in quantity and quality) the numbers on your team:

       Solo – 7 quotes   Partner – 10 quotes   Triads – 13 quotes

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Ignores Expectations
Thesis 10 points	• Thesis is sharp and concise (one sentence) • Thesis provides a new perspective, is thought-provoking • Thesis is accurate for the text, symbol, and meaningful (beyond the text).	• Thesis is clear and concise (one sentence) • Thesis is thoughtful • Thesis is relevant • Thesis is a universal, thematic statement	• Thesis is vague and general • Thesis is one sentence • Thesis is not thoughtful/relevant • Thesis is not a universal statement	• No thesis • Unclear thesis • Thesis is longer than one sentence
Symbol 10 points	• Symbol is unique and creative • Symbol is neat and accurate • Symbol uses color in a creative, meaningful way • Symbol uniquely ties the ideas together with moving reference to the world beyond fiction.	• Symbol is creative • Symbol is accurate • Symbol is neat • Symbol uses color in a meaningful way • Symbol ties ideas together	• Symbol serves purpose • Symbol is flawed or poorly constructed • Symbol has no relevant color connection • Symbol is more literal or copies a symbol from the book	• Symbol is weak • Symbol has no color • Symbol shows no real effort • Symbol is not relevant
Quotes 20 points	• Uses required number of quotes • Quotes nonfiction source • Quotes are uniquely relevant and show careful reading and deep understanding • Quotes are embedded artfully. • Quotes are cited in correct MLA format	• Missing 1-2 quotes • Quotes nonfiction source • Quotes are clearly relevant, but may be more obvious connections in text • Quotes are embedded. • 1-2 minor mistakes in MLA format	• Uses at least 5 quotes • Quotes only text (no nonfiction source) • Quotes are vaguely relevant. • Quotes are not embedded. • 3 or more mistakes in MLA format	• Uses less than 5 quotes. • Mostly paraphrases. • MLA format disregarded
Analysis 20 points	• Analysis is unique and well-developed • Analysis is relevant and interesting. • Analysis clearly makes the desired connections between texts, thesis, and symbol. • Persuasive and artful analysis puts thesis in a global/human perspective.	• Analysis is well developed. • Analysis is relevant • Analysis makes the desired connections from texts to thesis. • Analysis proves thesis.	• Analysis is not well developed. • Analysis is relevant. • Analysis makes some connections. • Analysis tries to prove thesis.	• Analysis poorly developed. • Analysis has little relevance • Analysis makes no connection to thesis
Works Cited Page 10 Points	• Completed • Correct MLA format	• Completed • 1-2 minor errors in MLA format	• Completed • 3 or more mistakes in MLA format	• Not completed