ENGL 101: Writing About Science and Medicine

Final Creative Project

**Task.** At this point in the semester, you have considered science and medicine rhetorically and socially, have done in-depth research on a topic, and have written a thesis-driven research essay in which you have proposed an intervention or plan for advocacy. You’ve become an expert on your topic, and your task now is to find a way to package your expertise in order to share it with an audience beyond this classroom.

**Medium and Audience**. The medium you select for this project is up to you. You can create a video, a podcast, an art project, a new blog or a series of op-ed articles, a piece of creative writing, or any number of other possibilities. You will need to pick a target audience (maybe the Emory community, a particular organization, a particular profession) and make a plan for actually finding a home for your project in the world. Part of the assignment is selecting and publishing to an appropriate venue. For example, if your final project was about the Americans with Disabilities Act on Emory campus, you might publish a podcast to SoundCloud, submit a series of op-eds to the Emory Wheel, plan and carry out a poster or social media campaign, and so on.

**Scope.** I trust you to use your judgment as to the appropriate scale for a project communicating your major claims from your research paper, which was between seven and nine pages long. The creative work should be a condensation and shifting of form that uses the full advantages of your new medium—for example, no podcasts where you simply read your paper, and no blog posts that are just chopped up bits of your paper! Remember that this project is worth 15% of your grade, and so should be seen as a substantial project. You should meet with me individually at least once to discuss your plan and progress.

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| **Week 1:** We will investigate science communication in a variety of genres, and you will sketch out a proposal for your project including the medium, proposed audience and how you will get your work to them, an explanation for why you’ve made these decisions, and a structured timeline for completion. *DUE: 1-2 page proposal.* |
| **Week 2:** Work on your project with feedback from your peers and me. Look at several examples of work in your genre and reflect on which is most and which is least helpful as you work on your project. Give concrete examples of elements you will be incorporating in your project. *Due: 1-2 page reflection on 5 artifacts in your genre.* |
| **Week 3:** Continue to look at examples of your medium, and bring a “draft” of your final project to your peer group for commentary. *Due: Draft and plan for next steps. 1-2 paragraph response to the work of each member of your group.* |
| **Week 4:** Complete your project and present it to the class. Also, get your project to your target audience! Start the process of getting it published, listened to, shown, and so on. Report back to the class on your progress on this front during your final presentation. *Due: Final project and 5-7 minute presentation.* |
| **Finals week:** Include your project in your portfolio along with a reflection on your editing and revision process, on your attempts to distribute your work, and on how your creative work influenced your revisions of your research project for the portfolio. *Due: Portfolio including, among other things, your final creative project and a 1-2 page single-spaced reflection.* |

Because this project will involve a substantial reworking of your previous work and also, possibly, the learning of a new technology, we will spread the work out over several weeks