

Appendix 15.4

The Assignment for the Digital Anthology Project

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An anthology is a collection of literary works focused on a specific topic, theme, genre, and/or period. These works are carefully and thoughtfully selected by a team of editors who provide additional resources in the anthology to help readers better understand the chosen works and writers. By the end of this semester, we will have encountered over thirty written texts, visual works, and songs, although this number barely scratches the surface of African American literature. Though these works reflect the experiences, writing, and cultural creation of African Americans, they demonstrate a diversity of perspectives, genres, and forms (autobiographical essays, slave narratives, sociological/historical studies, novels, short stories, poetry, plays, literary criticism, visual art, speeches, and music).

Given that we have encountered many types of works spanning three centuries, your anthology will need to make choices about your focus. Taking on the role of editors, you will work in a team of three to select the texts and writers to include in your anthology. Unlike the sample anthologies we reviewed in class, your anthology will be digital to allow for easier collaboration and greater creativity.

This final project will include the following elements, all of which must be submitted to Blackboard to receive credit:

Team Contract/Project Proposal:

- Collaboratively produced and graded
- Written using a collective voice (we/our)
- Expresses the scope, purpose, and significance of your proposed anthology; selected texts, team members and assigned responsibilities for each member, contact info, available meeting times, and plans for completing project on time

Digital Anthology:

Collaboratively produced and graded

Required Elements:

- Technology: PowerPoint, Prezi, or some other effective digital software.
- Title Page with editor information and “publication” date
- Statement of Purpose
- Table of Contents
- Three to four selections per team member (nine to twelve total per anthology). At least three of your total selections must be new (texts we have not read in class). At least 50% (or five to six) of your total selections must be from our course reading.
- Bibliography/Resource List (please keep primary texts separate from critical resources)

Suggested Additional Elements:

- Biographical Notes
- Historical and/or Literary Context
- Additional Primary Source and Archival Documents (letters, bill of sale, advertisement, maps, newspaper articles, etc.)
- Timeline/Chronology
- Images, Audio, Video (portraits, interviews, performances, documentaries, songs, speeches, etc.)

Presentation:

- Presentation of your digital anthology with teammates
- Receives a grade based on in-class team performance; clear communication and demonstration of your anthology’s purpose, significance, and contents; effective engagement of audience; ability to answer questions

Introduction:

- Individually produced, receives an individual grade, submitted individually
- Two pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt. font)
- Explains the focus and purpose of your anthology, why it matters, and reasons for choosing your selections (personal, historical, and literary)
- Remember, since anthologies reflect conscious decisions about what to include and exclude, as well as how to narrow and focus, your introduction

must make an argument about why an anthology of African American literature matters and why your particular selections matter, what they contribute, and how they are related.

- Use the critical resources, handouts, PowerPoint presentations, class notes, and resources from the African American LibGuide to support and enhance your claims in the introduction: <http://siue.libguides.com/africanamericanlit>.