

MULTIMODAL DEFINITION OF RHETORIC (200 PTS)

This semester in *Rhetorics of the Body*, we have discussed some of the ways that rhetoric and composition scholars have taken up issues of the body: disability rhetorics, theories of embodiment, narratives from BIPOC scholars, and finally arguments about multimodality and embodied media. We have mapped different definitions of rhetoric, and you have been thinking through complex ideas in your reading responses. Now, it's time to synthesize what we've done.

For this project, you will compose a multimodal text that defines your understanding(s) of rhetoric based on the readings, discussions, and presentations from this semester. You are welcome to take a broad approach or a deep dive into a specific area.

GUIDELINES

1. Multimodal Text

I am asking that you create a multimodal text because multimodal texts can communicate embodied knowledges and experiences that print texts often cannot.¹ Consider the rhetorical situation when planning your multimodal text: purpose, audience, genre.

Your purpose might be scholarly, pedagogical, or creative in nature. Your audience may be folks who are familiar with rhetoric but new to embodiment, or perhaps they are first-year students who are learning about rhetoric for the first time. Whatever genre you choose, think carefully about what modes of communication will best express your ideas. There are many options, but here are a few to prompt ideas:

- a made object: a collage, painting, sculpture, embroidered or knitted object
- a hand-drawn comic or zine
- a research poster or posterboard
- a web page that uses hypertext to link different scholars' definitions
- a podcast episode that includes different voices to discuss language
- a video or recorded performance
- a photo series or visual essay
- a visual/digital presentation
- an infographic or data visualization

Access is an important theme from this semester, and **it is vital that your multimodal text is accessible**. Videos must be captioned, images must be described, audio must be transcribed, etc.

¹ Although multimodality can help us *compose the body*, you do not need to compose *your* embodied knowledges and experiences for this project. You are welcome to take a personal approach to this project, but it isn't a requirement.

2. Reflection

In addition to your multimodal text, you will submit a 3-page reflection that discusses the rhetorical choices you made, referencing any texts from class that influenced your definition. You might also reference readings from other classes as context for how your definition of rhetoric has evolved over time.

Although the reflection doesn't need to be written as an essay with a thesis statement and citations, please format your reflection according to MLA formatting: double-spaced with headings and page numbers, and a Works Cited for any texts you reference in your multimodal text and/or reflection.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

The **Multimodal Definition of Rhetoric** is due by 11:59pm on Wednesday, April 20th. You will submit your multimodal text and reflection through Canvas. If you have a physical object, you will submit it in class.

We will not meet in class on Monday, April 18th. Instead, you will meet individually with me via Zoom to discuss your projects, and you will share a draft with me.



In class on Wednesday, April 20th, you all will *informally* share your multimodal texts. This isn't a presentation that you need to prepare: it's just a few minutes showing us your project and what you did. If you have specific questions or want feedback, you're welcome to use this time to do so. Your text doesn't need to be in its *final* form at this point, but it should be presentable.