How Texts Represent the Influence of History, Culture and Bias

PLOS :

B1 Read to comprehend a wide variety of text including literature showing a variety of times, places and perspectives and including aboriginal texts and texts of other cultures.

B3 View to comprehend a wide variety of forms including films, photographs, artistic representations, etc.

B9 Interpret and analyze information from written and visual texts by identifying diverse voices, critiquing perspectives, identifying bias and recognizing the effects of historic and cultural concepts upon literature.

C6 Select and apply strategies to analyze information including using a variety of sources to collect information and organizing your collected information into a form of communication.

C9 Write and represent to interpret, analyze and evaluate.

1. Choose an Subject which Interests You. Here are some suggestions:

Portrayal of women in literature

Survival

Vampires and Monsters/Zombies

War

God/gods/ spiritual beings

Witches/witchcraft

1. Find example(s) of this concept and its portrayal in the following:

a. Pictorial form – modern day drawing(s), traditional art (masks, clothing, etc. can be considered part of this area), album covers, signs and commercial art, book jackets, photographs or any other visual form. (at least 3)

b. Non-Fiction – This could be an article or an except from a non-fiction novel\* (at least 1)

c. Fiction – short story, play or novel (at least 1)

d. Poetry – find at least 3 poems that portray the subject chosen.

e. Cultural component – This subject as viewed by a culture other than my own.

f. Film – any films/movies which portray this subject as a central idea (at least 2)

NOTE: I don’t expect you to read entire novels or plays. You can research them at a reputable site to get a sense of the piece.

NOTE#2: The purpose of this task is to examine how concepts differ over time and across cultures. Consider this in your choice of materials. **The more diverse your materials, the better it will be to examine this aspect.**

1. For each example, examine the following:
2. How the text portrays the concept. Negatively? Positively? Neutral? Be specific once you have narrowed it down.
3. Artist/Author – cultural background, intended audience and era of writing – **How does this affect the portrayal of the concept?**
4. What key words or events or features does the writer/artist use to convey his/her belief about the concept?

HOW WILL I BE PUTTING THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER?

You will be deciding how your subject can best be revealed. Here are a few ideas:

iBook Author

Prezi

Poster

Booklet

Podcast with video (Fun with Flags anyone?)

Oral presentation

Movie/video

KEEP IN MIND THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO SHOW **HOW YOUR SUBJECT IS AFFECTED BY OUTSIDE FORCES SUCH AS CULTURE, HISTORY, ETC.**

You will need to record all of your sources using MLA style. Whether you do a movie/video or an essay or a book, all require citing of sources.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHECK LIST

\_\_\_\_\_ I have a topic in mind which is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gathering sources: I have found

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 pictorial examples of my concept.

\_\_\_\_\_ a non-fiction example

\_\_\_\_\_ a fiction example (novel, short story)

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 poems or songs or a combination of both

\_\_\_\_\_ one cultural element

\_\_\_\_\_ a film which involves my concept.

Recording sources

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have a sources page where I have recorded all of my sources **in MLA style**.

Organizing and choosing a format

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have decided to put my information in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Content

For each source I have commented on:

\_\_\_\_\_ How the text/visual portrays the concept.

\_\_\_\_\_ How the author/artist’s cultural or personal background or the era and audience has affected this work.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Examples to support the 2 points above.

Final product

\_\_\_\_\_ includes a sources page in proper MLA format