

SMALL-SCALE PORTFOLIO “DISPLACEMENT, THREE ACTS”

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General Instructions

This assignment invites you to explore different genres of writing in relation to the topic of displacement, the overall goal being for you to build a small-scale portfolio that showcases your most incisive insights in relation to class materials and discussions. Your specific task is to articulate a strong, debatable thesis on an aspect of displacement that you consider important, including in relation to under-researched or under-exposed issues.

PART 1) SHORT CRITICAL INTRODUCTION

PART 2) SERIES of THREE FOUND POEMS

PART 3) ARTIST STATEMENT on FOUND POEMS

PART 1) SHORT ANALYTICAL INTRODUCTION

Length: 500 words (approx. 2 pages)

Format: MLA, 12-point font/double-spaced/with a good title and works cited page

Instructions

- The first piece of writing is a short critical introduction which will present a thesis on displacement that you will examine critically in one of the texts or films studied in class.
- This is an exercise in close reading, as practiced in class. You are not expected to conduct research and work with external sources to build your argument.
- To support your thesis, you will need to cite relevant passages from the text/film and analyze them. Pay attention to word choice, style, imagery; also, where appropriate, to what is unsaid, circumvented or otherwise remains silent.

PART 2) SERIES of THREE FOUND POEMS

Instructions

- Select a second text as the basis for 3 found poems.
- To create a series of found poems, proceed as follows:
 1. Select a page from one of the texts we've studied and photocopy it.
 2. Slowly working through the page, cross out words of lesser importance (to you). Repeat until you identify 15 words or very short phrases (3 words maximum) that you wish to work with.
 3. Arrange these words/phrases into a poem. (It does not have to rhyme.) Use space. Think about rhythm. A strong beginning. A compelling ending.
 4. Title your poem.
 5. Repeat for found poems 2 & 3.
 6. **Your three poems should build on, and develop, the theme that was introduced in Part 1) of the assignment.**
 7. State this theme in the form of an overall title for all three poems.

PART 3) ARTIST STATEMENT

Length: 500 words (approx. 2 pages)

Format: MLA, 12-point font/double-spaced/with a good title and works cited page

Instructions

- An artist statement is a cohesive essay about an artist's vision. It is an explanatory piece of writing that can be experiential, reflective, philosophical, provocative, or anything else that allows an artist to connect to their audience. Please refer to the examples provided in class for guidance and inspiration.
- The artist statement should be written in connected paragraphs to form a compelling textual whole. It should explain how you arrived at your found poem series; what the series helps your readers grasp about the text of your choice; and what your poems contribute to our overall understanding of displacement and forcible migration.
- Importantly, the artist statement affords you the opportunity to write under the pronoun "I." Whether this "I" reflects on experiences or engages with concepts (or does both) is your choice; so is the overall tone of your piece. Despite this openness, be careful not to lose your overall thesis.