
Presenting the Pioneers

// Research Presentations //

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ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

Throughout the semester, you will research an illustrator, and present your findings to the class. Additionally, a short blog post is required (including a bibliography and images), which will be posted to our site and possibly compiled into a book at the end of the semester, which will be made available to the class. In other words, we are writing our own book on the history of illustration.

OBJECTIVE

This research project is intended to better acquaint us with the history of illustration as well as contemporary illustrators. This is an opportunity to learn various techniques, methods and strategies employed by our predecessors.

GUIDELINES

The Presentation Schedule herein outlines a detailed timetable for when you will be presenting. Here is what is required:

Research Your Illustrator

Go to the library. Seriously. Books still have the most scholarly work regarding research subjects. Also, you can bring the books to class thereby exemplifying further the work of your illustrator. Wikipedia is a good starting point for your research; note the first-level sources and find them in the library if possible. Find ways to connect with the illustrator. How does your work relate to hers? What has changed since the time in which she worked? Why is she interesting to us?

Develop a 10 Minute Presentation

Presentations are usually boring. We know this. Make yours interesting. You can bring in props to better make your points, hand out quizzes or fact sheets, bring in candy for prizes. Be creative. This said, your presentation should leave us with essential information about the illustrator, such as biographical data, plenty of images of her work, the context in which she worked, where/how the work was shown and any other interesting information that reveals something to us. Keep it to ten minutes.

Post to Blog

Everyone will be invited (also required) to contribute to our blog. This is an essential component in today's education, in that it allows us to potentially connect with other students and educators. Also, so much information about illustrators is offline; this provides access to others. Thus, you will need to create a blog post about your presentation. It can (and probably should) be simple. Show pictures. Tell us something interesting. I'll cross-post on my blog. This is in lieu of an actually paper.

ASSIGNMENT RESOURCES

- + Hold Feature at the Main Library
- + Every illustrator should be the subject of art historical texts at the library. Use these as your primary sources.

PRESENTATION TIPS

- + Minimize words on your slides. Seth Godin says: no more than 6 words to a slide.
- + Keep the layout simple.
- + Don't read; glance at your notes if necessary.
- + Use as many images as possible to effectively demonstrate your points.
- + Entertain us (handouts, quizzes, candy, humor, whatever).
- + What is the story here? The story of the illustrator, of illustration as a medium, a pursuit. Tell us a story.
- + Practice.
- + Speak slowly.
- + If you were the audience, would you be bored?
- + Consider the arc. Do you tell us everything we need to know? Is the order logical?
- + Use interactive media. Are there interviews with this illustrator? Video animations of her work?
- + Ask the audience if there are any questions.
- + If Wikipedia is your only source, you're wasting everyone's time.
- + Come prepared.

Use this as an opportunity to practice speaking. As an illustrator, a designer, an artist and a creative thinker, you will need to be comfortable speaking in a public arena. There will be presentations to pitch to clients, lectures to give to students or, at the very least, interviews. Either way, this is a chance for you to practice speaking clearly and effectively.



PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Date	Illustrator	Presenters
09.07.10	Albrecht Durer Hans Holbei	
09.09.10	William Hogarth G.B. Piranesi	
09.14.10	Thomas Rowlandson William Blake	
09.21.10	Pierre-Joseph Redoute J.J. Audobon	
09.23.10	George Cruikshank Grandville	
09.28.10	John Tenniel Gustave Dore	
10.05.10	Edward Burne-Jones Thomas Nast	
10.14.10	Walter Crane Kate Greenaway	
10.19.10	William Morris Jules Cheret	
10.21.10	Jose Guadalupe Posada Howard Pyle	
10.26.10	Alphonse Mucha H. de Toulouse-Lautrec	
11.02.10	Beatrix Potter Arthur Rackham	
11.04.10	Charles Dana Gibson Maxfield Parish	
11.09.10	Aubrey Beardsley J.C. Leyendecker	
11.18.10	E.H. Shepard N.C. Wyeth	
11.23.10	Rockwell Kent Hannah Hoch Max Ernst	
11.30.10	John Heartfield George Crosz	
12.02.10	Norman Rockwell A.M. Cassandre Lynd Ward	

