

Creative final project

Objective

Show off what you've learned by making something inspired by the course.

Step 1: make something!

Produce a creative piece inspired by your study of British literature this semester. The length or size is not important. Here are some ideas:

- Adapt one of our works for a modern audience. Rewrite it as a screenplay, short story, news story, or graphic novel, or film a video adaptation. (If you choose a long work like *Paradise Lost* or *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, you can abridge it or adapt only one scene.)
- Compile a soundtrack or song playlist to accompany either a text or a particular character in one of our works.
- Try your hand at writing a sonnet. Choose one of our sixteenth-century sonneteers as a model.
- Write a series of letters or diary entries by one of our characters.
- Write a prequel or sequel to one of our works.
- Retell one of our texts from the perspective of a minor character.
- Write a new piece inspired by one of our works. For example, you might write a satire inspired by our 18th-century poems or a one-act play in the style of Shakespeare.
- Sculpt, paint, or draw your interpretation of an important scene, character, or item from one of our works.
- Design costumes and set for a modern performance of *As You Like It*.
- Choreograph a dance or compose a song to accompany a particular scene in one of our works.
- Record yourself delivering a speech from *As You Like It* or *Paradise Lost*, or a section of one of our poems. Perform the text two ways to show two distinct possible interpretations of that moment.
- Start a social media page for one of our characters.
- Design a modern advertisement for one of our works.
- Make your version of a prop or item from one of our works.
- Design a party hosted by one of characters. What would be on the menu? Who would be invited? Where would it be held? What would entertain the guests? (You can write, draw, or demonstrate your ideas.)

The above list is not exhaustive. You are welcome to come up with your own idea. If it is a project you made that is inspired by something we read, it counts!

Step 2: write a maker's note

Write a 2-page double-spaced essay that explains **how your course work inspired your creative project**. We might also call this part an "explanation," an "author's note," or an "artist's note." It should explain *some* of the following:

- how your creative work interprets or adapts the original work
- how the original work inspired your creative piece
- what parts of the course text were challenging to “translate” and why
- why you made the specific changes or choices you did
- how your creative work applies certain ideas we learned in class
- what making the creative piece taught you about the original work

Requirements and grading criteria

1. Effort and care in the creative work inspired by your study of early British literature.
2. Thoughtful discussion in the maker's note that explains your choices and shows familiarity with the work that inspired you.
3. Strong, clear writing with few to no grammatical or proofreading errors.

Tips

- Notice what's NOT in the grading criteria. I will not evaluate the *quality* of your creative piece. I want to see effort.
- I do not require a particular kind of organization in your explanation essay. You don't necessarily have to have a thesis statement--you can if you want, but that's only one option. Organize the essay however you like.
- Pick something that you think will be fun, and try not to stress about it. I want to see that you learned something this semester and can apply it somehow.
- If you make something you can't turn in via Carmen (a sculpture, canvas painting, costume, prop, physical letter, etc.), take a photo and submit the photo.
- You are welcome to collaborate with a classmate on the creative project, but each of you needs to write your own explanation.

Academic Integrity

- **Getting help on the assignment** is permitted.
- **Completing the assignment with others** is permitted.
- **Copying previous work** is **not** permitted.
- **Open-book research** using course texts is permitted. If you do any additional research, cite any source you use (in your explanatory essay).