

## Final Project 4 + Final Presentation

In place of writing a final essay, you are invited to create an alternative media project that draws upon what you have learned in Expository Writing to pose & support an argument about American fascination with gangsters/gangster culture. Part of creating & presenting your project requires translating what you have learned about *drafting & revising argument essays* in Expository Writing into another genre with a format that is NOT an essay. Writing will be involved in nearly every option, however—as most project will have written components—as well as in your script for your *Final Presentation* (i.e. *Explaining how and in detail*, for example, the argument that your Project proposes and supports).

- “The Elements of the Essay”: Motive, Stance, Thesis, Keyterms, Analysis, Assumptions, Sources, Evidence, Stitching, Rhetorical Structural Moves, & Style
- Hook, Focus, Organization, A-C-E, synthesis, “They Say, I Say,” Counterargument & Refutation, Diction, Lens Text/s, writing strong Introductions & Conclusions, Quotation Weaving, & Revision

**Requirements:** Final Project 4 has two components: A) a creative alternative media Final Project and 4-5 minute Final Presentation.

**A. Final Project:** Create a 4-5 minute performance, sculptural, dramatic, visual, or audio-visual object, that proposes & supports an argument about America’s continued fascinated with American Gangsters (or gangsters and gangster culture more broadly). Presentations must relate to & incorporate course readings (topics, focus, arguments, keyterms, quotations), and draw upon essays you wrote for class.

- I. Computer-generated: short documentary or short film; movie trailer, computer game, commercial or infomercial, blog, web page, game, podcast, or other computer-graphic generated project.
- II. Physical Performance: poem, speech, song, dramatic monologue, short play, impersonation, puppet show (sock or shadow), manifesto, soap box demonstration, infomercial, commercial, interview, advertisement, etc.
- III. Artwork (illustration, chart, map, sculpture, painting, graphic novel or cartoon/comic strip, installation, diorama, collage, or game—board game, computer game, role-playing game), advertisement, print or multi-media publication, (i.e. magazine, flyer, weekly paper, etc.)

\* All projects will involve a “mock-up,” sketch, or draft written component of some kind that you bring to your Project 3 Group Conference. For example, if you make a podcast, you should bring a draft of the transcript; if you deliver a dramatic monologue, you should bring the written or typed working draft; if you create a game, diorama, painting, or illustration, you should bring a sketch or mock-up.

**B. Final Presentation:** a 4-5 minute presentation that explains of how your project proposes and supports an argument about the fascination with gangsters and/or gangster culture.

\*You should be familiar with and have a firm understanding of the genre you choose for Final Project 4. In other words, do not write a soliloquy if you don’t know the formal conventions of this form of poetry (blank verse, etc.).

\*Feel free to assume an avatar or persona for your Final Project and/or for the Final Presentation. You should be dressed appropriately or in costume as your avatar for your presentation.

\* You may cast “actors” from outside of class if your *Project Presentation* requires more than one participant.

**Final Project IV + Final Presentation** counts as the Essay IV equivalent and comprises 10% of your grade. Both a “draft” & revision“ are required. The work involved in creating, preparing, and revising, modifying, practicing/rehearsing, and then presenting *Final Project 4 & Final Presentation* should be—and will be graded as—the equivalent of a 4-page final essay.