

First Impressions

Visual Essay Assignment

A visual essay has two parts. Your visual presentation is comprised of words, images, and colours carefully arranged to convey a particular message. The second part is a written explanation of what you tried to do in order to convey your message. The second part can be written (typed) on the back or on a separate page.

We have discussed “First Impressions” in class and you have had the opportunity to feel your way through a mock introduction and interview in appropriate clothing. In doing so, you have seen what works and what doesn’t. You have, perhaps, felt good about some things and uncomfortable with others. Now, you need to reflect on your ability to make a good first impression and demonstrate your knowledge of your own attributes and your understanding of what skills you need to improve.

In a visual essay, depict the DOs and DON’Ts of making a good first impression - ESPECIALLY as they apply to you:

Do you do a lot of negative talking to yourself (expressing doubts)?

Do you constantly chew gum, say “like”, keep your hands in your pockets, mumble, bite your nails, etc.?

Do you have a confident handshake, smile, walk, etc.?

There are many ways you can convey the message of who you are and what impression you create when someone meets you.

Use pictures from magazines, quotations from novels, poems or your own “self-talk”, drawings, designs, and different type faces that create mood and convey how you feel about yourself.

A title is unnecessary - your message has to be obvious. It is probably best for this assignment to use one page for the DOs, another for the DON’Ts and a third for your explanation.

The work should be no larger than 8.5”x11” and may be the size of your journal page.

You may put it directly on the journal page or paste your work into your journal. This will depend to a great extent on the size and form of your journal.

An excellent visual essay will have at least 5 images and 5 quotations for each of the two pages. Colour and fonts should be used effectively.

The written explanation should be either typed or neatly printed/written in ink

There should be evidence of understanding, critical thinking and creativity.

You will begin this assignment in class and finish at home. Students are expected to work on this in class and I will not accept the work if I do not see you working on it during class time. All work will be shared in small groups the following day and collected for feedback and grading.

Questions? ALWAYS ask if in doubt!