
ARTIFACT #1

EXPERIMENTAL INDEXES

Planning

Each member of your group will re-read and skim *alphabet* to identify where your group's assigned theme appears in the book. Plan how to allocate responsibilities by assigning page ranges to group members, deciding who will organize and proofread the complete index, and who will have design responsibilities for the multimodal document. Share writing responsibilities equitably among each other.

Process

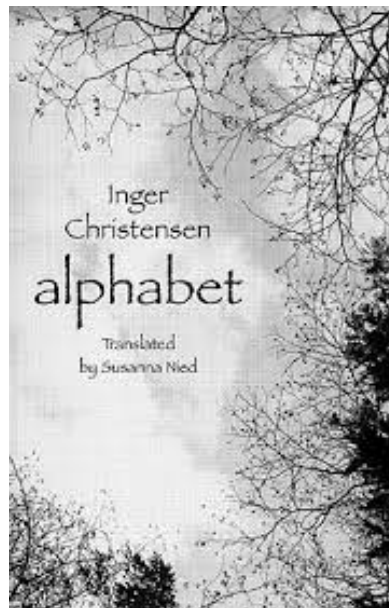
As you use distant reading methods, take notes to reflect on how the reading process to complete this assignment is different than a traditional close reading process. For example, how is this distant reading method different from processes that focus on reading for comprehension or retention? As your index develops, start to identify arguments your group can make about the significance of this theme in *alphabet*.

Final Artifact

Create using Canva templates. Submit as PDF on Canvas.

Project Description

Students will work in groups to create experimental indexes for Inger Christensen's *alphabet* that track the poetry sequence's references to science, metaphysics, time, the human, and the



nonhuman. While an index in a book is traditionally an alphabetized list of topics and words that appear in a printed book that provides a page number where each item can be found, these experimental indexes will record the ephemeral, overlapping, and not-so-obvious topics that serve as the thematic and critical background for Christensen's book. As students re-read and skim the poem with their attention trained to inventory specific themes and concepts, the process of reading will subtly transform, and students will reflect on these changes in the

reading process in an introduction that will accompany the finished index. These indexes will be presented as thoughtfully designed multimodal documents that include: 1) an introduction that describes the process of compiling your index and makes an argument about how your index allows us to analyze this theme in Christensen's book; 2) a chart or graph; and 3) complete index.

Due Dates

Questionnaire #1: **Monday June 22**

Artifact 1 Mock-up: **Thursday June 25—send to Dr. Sturm before your group's meeting**

Final Artifact: **Sunday June 28 by 11:59pm on Canvas**