
ARTIFACT #3

THE POETICS OF (UN)SUSTAINABILITY

Planning

Discuss both texts with your group members in order to collaboratively develop an argument about how these texts present important ethical questions related to issues of civil and human rights. Refer back to your questionnaire responses, create a shared Google Doc for group notes and ideas, and keep checking in with each other as you finish reading *Grave* and have new ideas. Refer to the example student website as a guide.

Process

This research-based artifact will require reading secondary sources related to both texts. Secondary sources like interviews with the poets, reviews of the books, essays by the poets themselves about their poetic interests, recordings of readings, and some research into the historical contexts of each book will be necessary. To find scholarly sources about immigration and other issues, use databases like JSTOR and Academic Search Complete via GT Library homepage. The credibility of your argument rests with your ability to effectively utilize secondary sources.

Project Description

Borders, Citizenship, Diaspora, and Memory: In groups, students will produce multimodal websites that investigate and analyze the writing of Bhanu Kapil and Brandon Shimoda. What are the key questions posed by the historical and contemporary political and cultural relationships constructed in their books? Students will develop a specific set of arguments about how these poems address issues of what we'll call a poetics of (un)sustainability. In other words, groups will construct arguments about how these books address BORDERS, CITIZENSHIP, DIASPORA, and MEMORY. Of course, these four ideas overlap in myriad ways; it's not as if your final website will be divided into these four sections. Our goal is to use these concepts as a foundation for thinking about the books' various entanglements—family, nationality, war, technology, infrastructure, racism, language, gender, writing, health, citizenship, and other ideas that you see operating in the books. Rather than separating these ideas out from each, one of the goals of this project is to bring these ideas to the surface and show how they're entangled across both books.

This project will also incorporate information provided by the Innovation Law Lab, a nonprofit organization that advocates for immigrant and refugee justice, about how the current crisis is affecting immigrant communities and asylum seekers in the U.S. Again, this artifact gives students an opportunity to present a set of questions about how these books speak to issues of civil and human rights. In some ways it is similar to a traditional research paper; in other ways, it is completely different. Creating a website, consider how to formulate your group's writing and analysis to the modular form of a website so that you're capitalizing on the affordances of this electronic medium. It might be helpful, as in the example student websites listed below, to think of the website as a set of digital museum-like exhibits. We'll discuss how to think about the affordances and organization of the website as the project develops.

Example #1: <https://artifact2group2.weebly.com/>

Example #2: <https://groupartifact.wixsite.com/artifact2group6>

Example #3: <https://poeticschr.weebly.com/>

Affordances of the Medium: Things to Consider

- The success of a digital artifact like a website rests not only on the quality of its content but also on a user's ability to navigate the website and meaningfully engage with that content. Because the purpose of your website is educational—you're showcasing a set of arguments about these two books—consider how to provide multiple ways for a user to navigate between sections and pages in ways that are practical and linear while still providing the flexibility of choice that's inherent to the medium. Whenever appropriate, take the opportunity to lead your audience through your argument with things like titles, buttons, directional language, and by posing questions.
- Also consider the purpose of all multimodal content, like pictures, images, audio, and videos. No content should be only decorative. In other words, it's important that each element contribute to your project in a meaningful way. This includes the labeling all of content with captions but, more importantly, it also means the integration of multimodal content into your argument. For example, it is ineffective to embed a video about an issue, let's say it is a video about immigrant detention centers, into your website without providing a critical framework that explains to your audience why this video is included, how it is relevant to this specific argument about Kapil and Shimoda's books, and suggests what your audience should look for when watching it. Without this framing, it will seem as if you just expect a user of your website to watch a video because it's there. As people who use websites all the time, we know this isn't how we interact with digital content. Keep this in mind when constructing and organizing your artifact.
- Although you're not writing a traditional research paper, you'll still be including a Works Cited page in your artifact. The ability to show your work is credible and verifiable, especially in digital spaces, is more important than ever.

Final Artifact

Due Tuesday July 21st @ 11:59pm EST on Canvas. One member of each group will submit the URL.