

Individual Assignment: Adaptation Brief

Purpose: To demonstrate understanding of how theatrical settings influence and complicate performance.

Instructions: For this assignment, which you will complete on your own, you will create a brief/packet of materials laying out your plan to adapt a Shakespearean comedy. You can choose to adapt either *Twelfth Night* or *The Taming of the Shrew*, which are the comedies that we'll be reading for class. Your adaptation should transpose your chosen play to either a new historical period, a new geographical location, or both. Once you have chosen your play and the new setting, you should do preliminary research of the theatrical practices used by your new setting. For example, if you move *Twelfth Night* to Feudal Japan, you should look at what theatrical practices existed and incorporate that information in your adaptation brief. If you choose a futuristic setting, consider looking into modern experimental theater for research on how professionals today imagine the future of theater. *Make sure that your adaptation is not a copy of an already-existing adaptation of your chosen play.*

Required Components: Your adaptation brief should include the following materials:

- *Advertising Poster:* Create a two-dimensional poster advertising your production. The poster should give an indication of the new setting through fonts, graphics, and other visual elements.
- *Set Piece Visualization (x2):* Design a set for two different scenes from your adaptation. Sets should appear from the front, as the audience would see them on stage, and should include furniture/props/backgrounds that are appropriate for each scene.
- *Costume Design (x3):* Develop a costume for three major characters in the play, showing how they would be dressed to match the new setting. Remember to keep any costume details that are necessary for the story, though you can be creative with your interpretation of the design (e.g. how would you incorporate Malvolio's yellow cross-gartered stockings if people in your new setting don't wear stockings?)
- *Rationale:* Write an 800-1000 word rationale explaining your design choices and how they reflect the setting that you chose. You should cite a minimum of two reputable sources for historical information about your period (not Wikipedia, sorry). See below for source suggestions.

Due Date: October 2 at 9:00pm on eCampus

Grading: This assignment is out of 200 points. Like previous assignments, grades are assigned based on completion of the assignment, with an A requiring you to go above and beyond the bare minimum.

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| A (200) | To receive an A (200), students should include two additional sources in their rationale (total of four) and increase the length of the rationale to 1300 words. |
| B (170) | All students who turn in a complete adaptation brief (i.e. includes all required components) will receive a B (170). |
| C (150) | An assignment may receive a C (150) either through late penalties, or if the adaptation brief is submitted, but missing part of a component (i.e. turning in one set piece instead of two, or missing sources). |
| D (130) | An assignment may receive a D (130) through late penalties, or if the adaptation brief is submitted, but missing one component (i.e. not turning in any costume designs, but submitting everything else). |
| F (118 or o) | An F (118) is assigned through late penalties, or if the assignment is submitted, but missing multiple components. An F (o) is only assigned if you do not turn in the assignment at all. |

Reputable Sources: Your sources for this assignment should be at least credible, and preferably academic. A number of such sources can be accessed through the library's list of databases (<https://library.tamu.edu/search/databases.html>), including Encyclopedia Britannica Online, the Oxford Research Encyclopedias on Literature and Communication, the Berg Fashion Library, and other specialized databases like Asian American Drama, Black Drama, and the Play Index, which may provide useful context for modern settings using the style of known playwrights.

Visualization Tips: If you are artistically inclined, you are more than welcome to draw/paint/craft your brief components, so long as you submit them digitally (submit photos of any three-dimensional components). Otherwise, there are a number of other ways to create the visuals you need. Websites like <https://pixlr.com/x/> offer free photoshop-like tools for manipulating digital images. <https://www.canva.com/> is a site that lets you design professional-looking posters, flyers, etc. for free. Many websites can perform simple image editing functions like removing image background, cropping, etc., if you do not already have access to programs/apps that will do this (google "remove background" etc.). You are also welcome to find more creative solutions from tools/programs that you already have access to (e.g. designing a set/costume in a video game and taking a screenshot). If you have questions about what tools are appropriate for this assignment, email me or stop by my office hours.