

## **Kim Haimes-Korn**

### **Radical Revision Assignment**

This revision of your writing will be what is called a "radical revision" which entails not only an extension and refinement of your ideas, but also a shift in the paper's voice and style or format. This radical revision is meant to challenge you by causing you to look at something familiar in a radically different way and to give you a chance to experiment with different types of writing. In order to complete this assignment you will have to find your own area of comfort or routine as a writer and step outside of it--this will mean different things for different people. Although you are free to include images – at this point – I want you to work on this revision at the textual level. You have spent the last couple of weeks revising your drafts for detail, voice, organization, and clarity. For this draft you will concentrate on style, voice and format as you present your ideas in a way that is radically different than your earlier drafts. You must ask yourself the questions, “what is radical for me as a writer?” “What is the relationship between form and content for this particular work?” “How might I alter my style and format to most effectively communicate my ideas?” This revision assignment asks you to consider the relationship between form and content as you make choices as a writer.

Even though you shift your approach, I expect you to incorporate what we have come to understand about writing thusfar. By that I mean we will be looking for evidence that you are taking up the issues brought up your earlier drafts. You should not sacrifice the deep meanings and elaborated experiences you arrived at in those drafts as you shift forms. You are still expected to substantiate your ideas and balance between events and experiences. This assignment asks you to closely consider style and format as you re-see your subject.

We will look for you to move beyond the surface of your ideas, use purposeful detail, have an awareness of your voice and language and connect to your ideas through the lens of your own experiences. Consider (but do not feel limited to) the following alteration possibilities (Feel free to draw upon more than one radical change as you might alter voice, perspective and format):

**-Change Genres:** An expository essay rewritten as a narrative, a narrative rewritten as a dramatic dialogue, a dialogue converted to a letter ( Monologue, Letter, Diary entry, Newspaper Column, Magazine article, etc.). You will obviously have to carefully analyze the genre before you imitate it.

**-Change of Perspective:** Add a second point of view--speak with more than one voice. Take a minor character and write the story from his or her viewpoint. Write from the viewpoint of several characters or voices. Write from a different vantage point.

**-Change of Voice:** Take on another persona or voice in your text different from the original persona. Use a multi-voice approach.

**-Change in Emphasis:** Rewrite the paper by making what was a minor point in the earlier paper into a major point. Select an entirely different point or lens by which to tell the story.

**-Change of Time Frame or Chronology:** Play with the time frame. You might want to tell your story from the perspective of a young child or you might want to incorporate the flashbacks and insights of an older person.

**-Change Format:** Write your paper as a newspaper or magazine article. You incorporate visual images or create a metaphorical representation of your work. You will need to consider document design, layout, and visual appeal

### **Radical Re-Vision: Visual Representation**

We have worked with reading, interpreting and representing with visuals and the ways they communicate rhetorically. In your writing sequence you took into account the ways images might have influenced your ideas, words and ultimately your written texts. The images you have taken thusfar have helped you to extend your ideas through captured images.

This next revision will be a particular kind of *radical revision* in which you represent your ideas visually. Look through your writing and your ideas and think about ways to extend your work into the visual realm. Complete the *heuristic* below as a starting place for your ideas and connections. Your visual revision should take into account the essence of your written work but do not feel that you have to include every word or idea. You don't necessarily have to include words at all. Think carefully about the ways you might express your ideas in a different form. Be as creative as you want with this assignment. You might work with images that somehow symbolize your ideas or you might incorporate parts (quotes/ideas) from the written text. You can use the pictures you took as part of the revision. You might construct a three dimensional version in which you use an assortment of objects to communicate your ideas. You might combine visual and written texts. Do not feel constricted to a flat page. Like any kind of composition you should consider the following criteria:

- Audience
- Meaning and Thinking
- Clarity
- Style and Form
- Development and depth
- Purpose
- Organization
- Context
- Balance between observations and inferences

**Accompanying Image:** Include a digital image of your visual representation to share with others or to use on your blog. Consider the background color/texture, lighting,

placement as part of your composition of this picture. We will display the representations “gallery style” and you will say a few short words about your project. Good luck – have fun with this assignment.

### **Heuristic: Visual Representation**

In a short writing address the following invention prompts that will help you radically revise your existing writing into a *visual representation*.

1. Ultimately, what are you trying to say in your piece? What purposes and meanings do you hope to communicate in your representation?
2. Highlight and list important keywords that speak to your ideas.
3. How would you describe the mood, tone, and voice of the paper?
4. Choose 3 significant, interesting quotes from your paper.
5. How do you want your audience to understand what you are saying?
6. What colors do you associate with your paper?
7. What images do you associate with this writing? Use these descriptors to conduct and internet image search.
8. Conduct an internet image search with your keywords.
9. Conduct an internet image search with the descriptors you used to describe mood, tone, and voice (from #3)
10. What medium or format are you considering using?
11. What materials will you need?
12. In a short statement, describe what you are considering for your visual representation.

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Bishop, Wendy. *Elements of Alternate Style: Essays on Writing and Revision*. Heinemann, 1997.