Podcast Group Assignment

Introduction

In this assignment, students will work together in small groups (2-3) to create recorded audio tours (podcasts) of a famous architectural site in Japan. This could be a castle, a temple, or a piece of modern architecture. Students should present the tour as if giving a tour to guests 'in real life,' walking their listeners through the site. In addition to descriptions of and explanations about the site, students should include historical background, religious or social context, and other important supplemental information. The tour should have one "main idea or argument" (thesis statement) that defines the limits and boundaries of their tour.

Good examples of similar podcasts you can listen to as a model:

https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/south-east-se-asia/japan-art/v/ryoanji-temple
https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-asia/imperial-china/song-dynasty/v/nets-garden
(these both include visuals as well as the spoken word)

Homework	Individual or Group	Due Date
Form groups	Group	1/30
Decide on site	Individual	2/1
Annotated bibliography	Individual	2/27
Script rough draft	Group/Individual	3/20
Script final draft	Group/Individual	4/10
Podcast mp3 file	Group	4/19
Group work reflection	Individual	4/19

Practicalities

This project is a multi-step project, as you can see above. Each step will be turned in on Courseweb, and feedback from the instructor will be provided via Courseweb as well. More information about each step is provided in the following sections below. A variety of options will be provided for recording the podcast, but some instruction on technologies available will be provided. However, if you are concerned about your level of technological know-how, please let the instructor know in advance.

The projects will be graded as follows. Please note that for those that dislike group-work, the majority of your grade (140/200) will be graded individually, e.g. your grade will not be reliant on your partners.

10 – Choosing site on time + thesis statement – *GRADED INDIVIDUALLY*
25 – Annotated Bibliography – *GRADED INDIVIDUALLY*
25 – Rough Draft of Script – *ONLY GRADED ON YOUR SECTION*
60 – Final Draft of Script – *ONLY GRADED ON YOUR SECTION*
60 – Podcast File – *GRADED AS A GROUP*
20 – Reflections Paper – *GRADED INDIVIDUALLY*

Choosing a Site & Thesis Statement (10)

For this assignment, please list the site that your group has chosen and a basic thesis statement for your podcast. **The thesis statement can be the same for each member of the group.** Although this assignment will be framed as an audio tour, the podcast should make an overall argument rather than simply being descriptive. Some examples follow:

Good Thesis Statement:

- Horyuji Temple demonstrates the importance of imported Chinese culture to the cultural authority of the elite members of society in Japan during the 7th and 8th centuries.

- Ise Shrine demonstrates authority by employing a wide variety of tactics, including referencing ancient architectural styles, keeping its main sanctum secret, and a periodic rebuilding ceremony and ritual.

Only Descriptive:

- Horyuji Temple is a beautiful Buddhist temple with a main hall and pagoda that have a strong Chinese influence.

- Ise Shrine's buildings resemble ancient Yayoi granaries and the structures are kept hidden from the public eye.

Site selection is totally up to each group. It can be a site that we have studied in class, is discussed in your textbook, or a totally different site. It can be a secular site or a religious site, and it can be a complex of multiple buildings or a single building.

Annotated Bibliographies (25 points)

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources (books, articles, websites, etc.), formatted as a citation that includes all of the crucial information (author, title, publisher's name, date). In addition, each source includes a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) about it that details **how you will use this source in your podcast.** What is the source about, and how will it be useful to you?

Please use the Chicago-style citations for your bibliography. This is a great reference if you are not familiar with this style: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. You can use

either the Notes and Bibliography or Author-Date style. The Notes and Bibliography style is most common for art history papers. For a book, the entry would like this:

- Grazer, Brian, and Charles Fishman. *A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015.

Each student should have 5-6 sources in their bibliography. **At least three of these sources must be a published scholarly book or article.** The remainder may be web sources. However, please note that **web sources must also be scholarly**. They should have citations and proof for their claims and be written by an expert. As a good rule of thumb, if a website has advertisements, it is not a scholarly source. If you have any questions or concerns, ask me before using the source.

Script Rough Draft (25 points) & Final Draft (60 points)

This project will ultimately be produced as a podcast—a spoken medium. However, before recording the podcast, we will create a script. Think of this script as a research paper written as a group. Each member of your group should have responsibility over part of the script. How you divide this up depends on each group. However, since each person will be graded individually on the script, make sure that each person writes an equal amount.

Since this is a research paper, your script should contain **citations** or **references** in the text. You do not need to read these or refer to these in the actual podcast, but for the script, please include them. For your research paper, please use the above-mentioned Chicago-style Notes & Bibliography style. This means your paper **should include in-text or footnotes citations with page numbers.**

For a book, the reference should contain a number in the text and then a corresponding number as a footnote. This is an example of the style for a book:

1. Zadie Smith, *Swing Time* (New York: Penguin Press, 2016), 315–16.

This will be discussed further, and examples given, in class.

The final version of your podcast should be between 15 to 20 minutes long, depending on how many people are in your group. As a rule of thumb, 15 minutes of talking amounts to about 7-8 pages of writing (double-spaced). 20 minutes of talking amounts to about 9-10 pages of writing (double-spaced). Therefore, take this as your guide for the length of your script.

Podcast File (60)

The penultimate step of this process is creating a podcast file with your recording. Each group member should read or recite their portion of the script. In addition, you may also include sound effects or an informal introduction/conclusion (as a conversation, etc.) This is up to each group. You will not be graded on the technical quality of the podcast file, but rather the preparation, care, and creativity that your group shows in creating the podcast. The file will be graded as a group effort (e.g. each member of the group will receive the same grade.)

The podcast file may be in any commonly used audio format (MP3, WAV, MPG-4 – the format used by the iPhone, etc.) For most people and groups, the easiest way to record will probably be using a smart phone. However, we will discuss other options and methods in class.

Reflections Paper (30)

The final step of this process will be a reflection paper. Each member of the group should write their own reflection paper; they will be graded separately.

The reflection paper should be between 1-2 pages double-spaced, 12 points Times New Roman or similar font, and 1" margins. This paper is a way for you to reflect on the process of creating the podcast. It is not a research paper, but a record of your thoughts and feelings about the entire process. Please try to answer the following questions:

- How was producing a podcast similar to or different from writing a more traditional essay? Do you feel like you learned or used different skills? Similar skills?

- What was the most challenging thing about this assignment, and how did you address that challenge?

- Describe the process of creating a paper and podcast collaboratively. What was the best and worst thing about writing a paper and producing a podcast as a group?