

English 391 Digital Essay

The mission of your digital essay is to expose a truth that your audience needs to know. Your audience is the readers of *L-I-N-K-E-D* magazine (<http://www.spelman.edu/academics/programs/english/L-I-N-K-E-D/index.html>), or another online publication of your choice. (If you are aiming toward a publication other than *L-I-N-K-E-D*, notify me of the publication's URL so I can assess your work appropriately.)

For this assignment, we are using digital space to re-interpret what *essay* can mean. Your essay will include text, image(s), and possibly audio and video elements. Key factors are the *design* and *arrangement* of these elements in a way that helps to tell your story.

Digital essays will be built as HTML files. Basic instruction in FrontPage and image editing will be provided in class. For additional instruction, you'll need to visit the Multi-Media Assistants in the Writing Center (a schedule is posted). If you know Dreamweaver, HTML, or another web-authoring tool/markup language, you are free to use it.

I am hoping that you won't stress out about the details of learning FrontPage or image editing. You will learn these most easily if you first envision what you want to do—imagine *doing something amazing* with a digital essay—and then work on the skills you need to make that a reality. I will be here to support you. ☺

When responding to each others' digital essays in workshops, please use the following criteria. I will do the same when assigning grades to essays.

- Establishes a distinct narrative presence (usually, but not always, an “I”) that conveys a unique voice and point of view. This presence must appear on the essay's index page, and must persist throughout all pages of the essay.
- Uses images and language to establish the narrative presence and develop the essay's purpose. (Use of audio and video elements are encouraged, but not required.)
- Communicates a clear purpose, whether implicitly or explicitly.
- Arranges elements in a way that enhances the clarity, tone, and purpose of the essay. Since this is a hypertext, the structure may be fragmented or dynamic. Experimental structures and styles are encouraged, but must conform to an identifiable system of internal logic.
- Develops characters, settings, and all other sensory elements through concrete and relevant detail. Detail may be visual and audible as well as textual.
- Uses precise language to deepen descriptions and sharpen analyses. Avoids clichés and word packages.
- Maintains appropriate grammar and usage, and is free of technical errors such as broken links or uncontrolled page width.