



**The Michael and Kathleen Clem History Writing Center**  
of the  
**Harrison Ruffin Tyler Department of History**

347 James Blair Hall  
Writel@wm.edu  
www.wm.edu/hwc

---

## **Multimodal Assignments**

### **What is a multimodal assignment?**

In a multimodal assignment the student is asked to use more than one modality (i.e., visual, audio, gestural, spatial or linguistic) in order to create meaning. Multimodal assignments have a variety of forms, from PowerPoint slides to photo-essays, blogs, and Wikipedia pages. It is important to keep in mind that most material cannot be transferred from one medium to another without adaptation.

### **Questions to ask yourself:**

- What is the **subject and purpose** of my project?
- What technologies will best fit my purpose?
- Who are the primary users or **audience** members of my project? How will they access and view my project (i.e., print, online, audio)? How will they **interact** with the features of my project?
- What **information** must be in my project?
- What **design elements** will enhance my message? What design constraints am I working with?
- How will I combine **content and form**? For example, you might consider how the photos you are including strengthen/weaken your overall message.
- What is the **lifespan** of my project? Is it permanent? Will it always be “public”?

\*As with written essays, you should have a friend view/use your project and give you feedback before turning it in. Check with your professor if you do not know if this step is allowed for your assignment.