

## [Introduction]

We're going to be soundwriting in this course, so you'll need to get yourself set up to record and edit audio right away. Read the "Getting Started with Audio" guide and figure out how you're going to use the gear you already have to make soundwriting. There are many ways to do this and you're welcome to use whichever methods work best for you. You do not need to purchase anything.

Once you're ready to try out your system, make an audio introduction of yourself for me and the rest of the class. In addition to it being good to know each other and test out your recording gear, we will also use these recordings later in the course for other assignments. Your finished file should be approximately 90 seconds long.

## [Process]

1. Read "Getting Started with Audio". Google anything you don't understand.
2. Figure out how you can use the technologies you already have to record and edit audio.
3. Read through the template (below) and make notes about how you'll answer each element. If one doesn't apply to you, skip it. You don't need to do all of the "OR" ones in the middle and you can do something similar if none of these suit you. Make yourself a script. Think about what tone you want to use in your voice.
4. Record yourself introducing yourself--you might follow the script exactly or you might use it as reference depending on the tone you choose.
5. Play back your recording and see if you like what you did. If not, record again and/or transfer your raw audio file into Audacity and use the editing tools to make changes. You can add sound effects or music, maybe. You can remove any "umm"s or breathing noises. Do whatever you need to do to make the introduction you want to make.
6. Export your file as an .mp3 and upload it to the assignment dropbox.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
10	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
10	Language: demonstration of critical reading/writing skills

## [Audio Introduction Template]

**Name:**

*("My name is \_\_\_\_" or "Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_" or "I'm called \_\_\_\_" etc.)*

**Course: "Reading Las Vegas"**

**School:**

**Major:**

*("I'm majoring in \_\_\_\_" or "My major is \_\_\_\_" or "I'm in school to be a \_\_\_\_" etc.)*

**How long you've lived in Vegas:**

**Where you're from:**

**Where else you've lived:**

**Favorite place in Vegas:**

**Best thing about Vegas:**

**Joke about Vegas:**

**OR**

**Something you've heard people say about Vegas:**

**OR**

**What you wish people knew about Vegas:**

**OR**

**Interesting Vegas fact:**

**OR**

**something else?:**

**What's your experience making audio or soundwriting?:**

**How are you making this audio introduction?:**

**What do you think about learning soundwriting in this course?:**

**Sign off:**

*("Nice to meet you!" or "See you in class" or "Later" etc.)*

## [Introduction]

Each student will adopt an individual theme from the beginning of the course and use this theme as an organizing principle throughout. You will trace this theme in each literary reading and individual assignment. Use the worksheet provided to prepare yourself to work with your theme.

## [Process]

1. Choose from the topics from the [Theme List] below and post your top three to the sign-up forum (I'll do my best to match you with your top choice).
2. Once you have confirmation on your assigned theme, copy and paste the [Theme Prep Template] into your word processing software.
3. Follow the instructions and hints in the [Explicated Template] to conduct research and complete the template. Many sources will provide you with a complete citation to copy/paste. If you have to make one yourself, [easybib.com](http://easybib.com) will be very helpful.
4. Make an audio recording of you reading your three favorite definitions and your personal example. You'll use this recording as part of your final Audio Essay!
5. Proofread your assignment and submit your work before the deadline.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
20	Completion
30	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
20	Language: demonstration of critical reading/writing skills
30	Demonstration of research

**[Theme List]**

Age	Alienation	Ambition	TheAmerican Dream
Beauty	Betrayal	Business	Choice
Class	Coming of Age	Commitment	Corruption
Danger	Death	Destruction	Disillusionment
Disobedience	Displacement	Duty	Ecology
Emancipation	Empowerment	Emptiness	Escape
Exploration	Failure	Family	Fate
Fear	Fitness	Forgiveness	Fortune
Free Will	Friendship	Game	Gender
God	Gratitude	Greed	Grief
Happiness	Health	Heartbreak	Heroism
History	Honor	Humor	Identity
Individualism	Innocence	Intellect	Isolation
Journey	Justice	Law	Loss
Love	Loyalty	Money	Mortality
Nature	Peace	Perseverance	Play
Power	Pride	Progress	Quest
Race	Redemption	Renewal	Responsibility
Romance	Sacrifice	Science	Sex
Sin	Spirit	Sport	Sublimity
Suffering	Survival	Taboo	Technology
Tradition	Vanity	Vice	Victimization
Wealth	Winning	Wisdom	Work

## [Theme Prep Template]

**Theme:**

**What does this theme mean to you?:**

**Friend's Definition:**

**Citation for Friend's Definition:**

**Dictionary.com:**

**Dictionary.com citation:**

**Oxford English Dictionary:**

**OED citation:**

**Credo Definition 1:**

**Credo 1 Citation:**

**Credo Definition 2:**

**Credo 2 Citation:**

**Wikipedia Summary:**

**Wikipedia Citation:**

**3 Synonyms:**

**3 Antonyms:**

**5 Parts or "Ingredients" of Theme:**

**Example 1:**

**Example 1 Citation:**

**Example 2:**

**Example 2 Citation:**

**Example 3:**

**Example 3 Citation:**

**Personal Example of Theme in Vegas:**

## [Explicated Template]

**Theme:** *List the name of your theme (the word you picked from the list).*

**What does this theme mean to you? (250 words):** *Before you look up anything, just write down what you already know and think about your theme.*

**Friend's Definition:** *Ask a friend or family member what they think the word means. Write down their exact words here.*

**Citation for Friend's Definition:** *Any information that is not your original idea or common knowledge requires documentation of its source. In this case, you'd follow the MLA citation style for "Personal Interview." Google it.*

**Dictionary.com:** *Look up your theme/word in dictionary.com. Copy/paste the definition here with quotation marks to indicate that the wording is copied directly.*

**Dictionary.com Citation:** *TIP! Look for a button that says “cite this” or something similar on the dictionary.com page--make sure you choose MLA style and you can use the citation they give you instead of figuring out how to write it yourself!*

**Oxford English Dictionary:** *Look up your theme/word in the OED. CSN has a subscription to this through the library. From the Library homepage, click on “Article Databases” then “O” then “Oxford English Dictionary”. If you’re doing this off campus, you’ll need to login using the same credentials you use to login to Canvas.*

**OED Citation:** *Same TIP! as with Dictionary.com...*

**Credo Definition 1:** *Credo is a library database of specialized reference materials. You can get to it the same way you did the OED, but clicking on “C”. Choose any definition from there that you find most useful. Copy and quote.*

**Credo 1 Citation:** *Same TIP! as with Dictionary.com again.*

**Credo Definition 2:** *Choose another definition.*

**Credo 2 Citation:** *Same TIP!*

**Wikipedia Summary:** *Wikipedia’s entry on your theme will be longer than a dictionary definition but should have more details and information. You won’t be able to quote this one so paraphrase and summarize.*

**Wikipedia Citation:** *Paraphrases and summaries still require citations. Can you use the same TIP! for Wikipedia? If not, us <http://easybib.com> to create your own citation for this source.*

**3 Synonyms:** *Synonyms are words that mean nearly the same as your theme/word.*

**3 Antonyms:** *Antonyms are words that mean nearly the opposite as your theme/word.*

**5 Parts or “Ingredients” of Theme:** *Consider what related ideas help to make up your theme. For example, if your theme was “Joy”, you might list these parts of Joy: pleasure, celebration, triumph, happiness, exultation*

**Example 1:** *Give an example of your theme from another piece of literature or popular culture that you already know well.*

**Example 1 Citation:** *You’ll probably need to use <http://easybib.com> to create a citation for this one.*

**Example 2:** *Do it again.*

**Example 2 Citation:**

**Example 3:** *Last one!*

**Example 3 Citation:**

**Personal Example of Theme in Vegas (250 words):** *Think of an example of your theme as it manifests in Las Vegas. You can use personal experience or an urban legend, or an original idea. If you refer to any information that is not your original idea, you’ll need to cite it.*

## [Introduction]

For each literature assignment in the course, please prepare a short book report using the prescribed template. These book reports help prepare you to read a piece of literature, to understand the literature in context, and to prepare for discussions and assessments. You're welcome to use reference research in addition to the textbooks, films, and other provided course resources for content. You should do a draft of your book report before you begin reading the literature and revise it for completion, accuracy, and effectiveness once you've completed reading the text.

## [Process]

1. Before you begin to read, fill out as much of the Book Report Template as you can, including reading about the author and text in Wikipedia or other reference sources. Get an idea of who the characters are and what they're going to do. Preview the plots and themes. Learn about the author and context of the book's publication. Save your notes in your Book Report document.
2. Read. Add to and modify your Book Report draft as you come across further information in the body of the text. You should be taking notes while you read.
3. When you've finished reading, read through your Book Report thoroughly and revise to reflect the summation of your understanding.
4. Make a recording of the "What does this book say about Las Vegas?" and "What does this book say about your theme?" sections of the book report. Also record yourself reading your three favorite quotations involving your theme. You'll use this recording as part of your final audio essay.
5. Proofread. Double-check that all citations are in place and accurate. Submit.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
10	Completion
10	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
10	Language: Demonstration of critical reading/writing skills

## **[Book Report Template]**

**Citation for text:**

**Author and Context:**

**5 Main Characters:**

**Plot Summary:**

**Themes Addressed:**

**What does this book say about Las Vegas?:**

**List quotations from book that involve your theme:**

**What does this book say about your theme?:**

## **[Explicated Book Report Template]**

**Citation for text:** *in MLA style. Use <http://easybib.com> for help.*

**Author and Context:** *100 original words with citations for all borrowed information*

**5 Main Characters:** *name plus 3 sentence description each*

**Plot Summary:** *250 original words*

**Themes Addressed:** *Consult the theme list on the Theme Prep Assignment. List any you observed with one sentence of explanation.*

**What does this book say about Las Vegas?:** *250 words. Remember, we're looking both at what Vegas means to outsiders AND what Vegas means to locals.*

**List quotations from book that involve your theme:** *Each quotation (5-10 for each book) must be enclosed in quotation marks and followed by the page number with its source in parentheses. Follow each quotation with two sentences explaining or discussing how it exemplifies your theme.*

**What does this book say about your theme?:** *250 words. Use this opportunity to draft part of your end-of-term essay.*



## **[Introduction]**

After you've read each literature assignment in the course and prepared a short book report, we'll have an in-class discussion activity and record it for use in your final Audio Essay. You'll be assigned a section of the Book Report for that book to present and record in class. If you're assigned "Author and Context", you should come to the discussion recording prepared to tell everyone about the author and context of that particular book. If you're assigned "Themes", you should pay extra attention to that element of that book. You (and any partners assigned to that section) will have 3-5 minutes to present your information to the class and microphone. Check the posted schedule for your discussion assignment.

After we've recorded these book report sections, I'll offer discussion questions to the class, give you a few minutes to think, and then we'll record a discussion in response. After class, I'll make this recording available to you.

For the Discussion Clip assignment, you will listen to the class discussion recording and choose parts of it that you find most interesting and edit them together into a short (5 minute) clip that can serve as a standalone piece. In other words, it should tell a whole idea. Depending on how our discussion goes, you may be able to clip out one of my discussion questions and the 6-7 student responses it got and make a clip of that. You can also select elements related to your theme and tie those together with some narration of your own. The format here is open, but the clip should be 5 minutes long and represent a complete idea.

## **[Process]**

1. Check your presentation schedule to see which part you're working on for each book and who your partners are.
2. Collaborate with your partners on what information you want to present and who will be responsible for which part. You can be clever in your presentation if you wish. You could do voice acting and quick monologues for the character section. You could do a rap of the plot summary. You can also just read something.
3. Bring a copy of your full Book Report and whatever you have prepared to present to the class recording session. Present your section and listen supportively to the other presentations (they may need your laugh track!).
4. Download the discussion track when it's posted and select a portion to use in your 5 minute clip. Edit down to a 5 minute clip. You may add music, sounds, narration, etc. to your clip if they serve the complete idea. You should certainly plan to include some kind of identification for what the title and author of a book are!
5. Fill out the [Discussion Clip] template.
6. Listen to your completed track to make sure it's ready. Convert it to an MP3 file. Submit your assignment..

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
10	Completion
10	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
10	Language: Demonstration of critical reading/writing skills

## [Discussion Clip Template]

**Title of book:**

**Title of your clip:**

**Topic/Idea of your clip:**

**Names of speakers in your clip:**

**List of sounds/sources added in your clip:**

## [Explicated Discussion Clip Template]

**Title of book:** *please spell it correctly!*

**Title of your clip:** *really--give it a title*

**Topic/Idea of your clip:** *<50 words*

**Names of speakers in your clip:** *consult the presentation schedule for spelling help*

**List of sounds/sources added in your clip:** *citation for anything you get from Jamendo or similar, citation for anything you borrow from TV/film...*

## [Introduction]

The “soundwriting” we’re doing in this course is probably a genre of literature you have not previously studied or attempted. As such, during the course, I’ll ask you to choose, listen to, and report on examples of soundwriting. Your goal here is to examine the elements, structure, and rhetorical function of soundwriting and think about how you can use this knowledge to create your own soundwriting, especially in your final audio essay.

## [Process]

1. Choose an example of soundwriting from the list, “Getting Started with Audio Essays”. I recommend you choose an example from a different show for each of your listening reports so you can be sure to explore different approaches to soundwriting.
2. Fill in the Citation, Title, and Author portions of your report.
3. Listen to the whole piece. Write the Summary portion of your report and note anything you heard that you want to try in your own soundwriting in that section.
4. Listen again, making note of each shift in audio type and when it shifts. You’ll be hitting the Pause button a lot. Write this up in the Timeline section of your report.
5. Reflect on your listening. Choose five elements you heard that you want to try. Write those up in the final section of your report.
6. Proofread. Submit.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
10	Completion
10	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
10	Language: Demonstration of critical reading/writing skills

## [Listening Report Template]

**Citation for text:**

**Title and Description of Show:**

**Author/Producer:**

**Summary:**

**Timeline of Audio Elements:**

**Elements You'd Like to Try in Your Soundwriting:**

## [Explicated Listening Report Template]

**Citation for text:** *in MLA style. Use <http://easybib.com> for help.*

**Title and Description of Show:** *title and 25 word description*

**Author/Producer:** *name and 25 word biography*

**Summary:** *100 words*

**Timeline of Audio Elements:** *Track the different elements as you listen to the example. You should identify the type of audio you're hearing and say when one type shifts to another type.*

*Here's an example of what this might look like:*

*0:00--Host introduction*

*0:08--Music*

*0:22--Ambient sound (traffic)*

*0:31--Host exposition over ambient sound*

*0:58--Interview*

*etc.*

*The goal here is to discover both what types of audio are used but also how they're brought together to serve the purpose of a piece of soundwriting.*

**Elements You'd Like to Try in Your Soundwriting:** *List five things you heard in this example that you think would work in one of your assignments for this course (particularly your Audio Essay). Say what the technique is and how you imagine you could use it yourself.*

## [Introduction]

Select a site in/near Las Vegas that is related to your theme and go visit. Depending on your topic, choice of venue, etc. this may be an assignment you can do with friends or family. Perhaps their reactions and voices will add to your soundwriting. Make sure, though, that you'll still be able to concentrate on your assignment. Record all kinds of audio on site for use in your final project.

You might narrate your experience during your visit ("The first thing I see when I enter is \_\_\_\_"). You might read aloud from signs posted at your venue ("According to the placard, this headdress was created in 1996 for the Bally's show, 'Jubilee'."). If you've brought someone with you, record their reactions to the experience. Definitely record your own. If you choose a location that's featured in one of our course readings, take the book along and record yourself reading aloud passages that involve that location. Capture some ambient sound too so listeners will get a feel for the sound of the place.

You should plan to interview at least one person at your location. When you do, you'll need to ask permission and explain that you're doing a school project. Nearly everyone will be willing to help you out if it's for school. Those of you who are ambitious should think ahead about whether you could snag an interview with someone rich/powerful/famous during your field trip. The words "school project" can be magical in opening up doors. Previous students have done interviews with actual mobsters, prostitutes, and Harry Reid. If your theme is "magic," why not call up and see if you can get an interview with Penn Jillette and get a tour of their theatre at the Rio? You can use this assignment as an opportunity. If you do score a cool interview, maybe some of your classmates would like to go along? You can interview anyone with particular knowledge about your location or theme. If it's not a performer, business mogul, or politician, maybe the museum docent will talk to you. Plan for this ahead of time--interviewing whatever randos happen to be there when you go doesn't count. You can do that too, of course (I encourage it), but you should have an authoritative interview subject.

Capture all kinds of stuff that speaks to your theme and gives a real audio experience of Vegas. I recommend you capture about 60 minutes worth of sound on site. Later, edit this into a 20 - 25 minute segment. You will use the rest of the stuff in other assignments so definitely save it! Make sure to fill out the report to submit along with your Field Trip piece.

## [Process]

1. Read over the Field Trip Template to understand the information you need to gather and tasks you need to accomplish with your field trip.
2. Choose a location related to your theme in the greater Las Vegas area. Plan a trip to visit your site at a time convenient for your schedule. Take friends or family along if that's suitable. It's great if you can have some fun, but do remember that this is for school and you should take it seriously. There is time before this assignment's due date to plan ahead and budget if necessary for any entrance fees or other expenses if these are part of your chosen location.
3. If applicable, call ahead to your site to arrange an interview.
4. Check the site's rules for recording and photography. Make sure you'll be able to capture the content you need without undue hassle when you get there.
5. Prepare your audio recording gear. Test. Charge any batteries. Make sure there's enough memory available for you to record 60 minutes of audio.
6. If you intend to record random people on site, prepare your pitch to ask people to participate, a quick explanation of your project, and your list of questions. If you're going to record yourself reading passages from the books, mark and highlight those passages and practice before you go. Whatever text you're going to record during your trip, make sure you have it entirely planned and ready before you arrive.
7. Begin to fill out as much of the template as you can. As with the Book Reports, this is to prepare you to get the most out of your experience.
8. Go. Take photos and record your content.
9. Listen back to the recordings. Outline a 20-25 minute segment then begin editing. Ease transitions with narration or music or sound effects or whatever suits your piece. Export the file as an MP3.
10. Complete the report. Proofread. Submit your assignment. Make sure to leave enough time to upload before the deadline! This will be a big file and it's likely to take awhile to get it into Canvas.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
50	20-25 minute produced audio segment
10	photo of location
40	report

## **[Field Trip Template]**

**Theme:**

**Location of Field Trip:**

**Choice of Site:**

**Description of Location:**

**History of Location:**

**Date, Time, & Duration of Visit:**

**Content of Recording:**

**Production Summary:**

**How are you going to be able to use this Field Trip experience for your final project?**

## **[Explicated Template]**

**Theme:** *List the name of your theme.*

**Location of Field Trip:** *Name and address or GPS coordinates.*

**Choice of Site:** *Why did you choose this site? What did you hope to find or create toward your final project? 100 original words.*

**Description of Location:** *100 original words.*

**History of Location:** *100 original words, including any necessary citations.*

**Date, Time, & Duration of Visit:** *When did you go and from when to when?*

**Vegas Sounds:** *List five sounds you can hear at your site and describe each. Say why each is a particularly Vegas sound. 50 original words for each of the five sounds.*

**Content of Recording:** *As with your Listening Reports, list the different audio elements you used in the Field Trip segment you're handing in and what time they occur in the recording. Make sure to identify people speaking.*

**Production Summary:** *Describe your recording experience. Did anything go wrong? Was it awkward? How did you handle recording on site/in public? How did you edit your audio file? What did you record but save for later? What did you fix? 250 original words.*

**How are you going to be able to use this Field Trip experience for your final project?**  
*100 words.*

## [Introduction]

People are accustomed to thinking of Vegas as a city of sights. In this course, we're going to pay special attention, instead, to sounds. Capture examples of sounds (5 minutes raw sound each) that represent Vegas and (if possible) your theme. Each audio file should be submitted with data on the time, place, participants, and relationship to your theme and Vegas itself (there's a form). The sounds you capture are for use on your final audio essay projects.

## [Process]

1. Think of a Vegas sound that involves your theme. Plan where you'll be able to observe and record each sound.
2. Visit the location and record 5 minutes of the sound.
3. Complete the Soundscape Report.
4. Submit the audio file and Report.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
15	5 minute raw sound recording
10	report

## [Soundscape Report Template]

**Theme:**

**Sound:**

**Location of Sound Capture:**

**Description of Location:**

**Date, Time, & Duration of Visit:**

**Content of Recording:**

**How are you going to be able to use this Soundscape in your final project?**

## [Explicated Template]

**Theme:** *List the name of your theme.*

**Sounds:** *Identify the sounds in your soundscape.*

**Location of Sound Capture:** *Name and address or GPS coordinates.*

**Description of Location:** *100 original words.*

**Date, Time, & Duration of Visit:** *When did you go and from when to when?*

**Content of Recording:** *50 word description.*

**How are you going to be able to use this Soundscape in your final project?** *100 words.*



## [Introduction]

Use your Theme Prep, Book Reports, Field Trip, and library research to construct an essay explaining how your particular theme manifests in Vegas. Your essay should take the form of an argument. All your completed work and your library research will function as evidence to prove your thesis. Your thesis should take a form along these lines: “While most people think of \_\_\_ when they think of Vegas, one of the most important themes to understand when it comes to Vegas is \_\_<your theme>\_\_.” Your completed essay should be 1000 words long.

## [Process]

1. Read over the blank Outline templates to understand the expectations and mode of the essay assignments.
2. Gather all your evidence: definitions, quotations, etc. and all your existing discussion. Place your existing content in the appropriate places in the Outline Template.
3. Supplement your existing evidence and discussion with library research. Add this to the Essay Outline.
4. Craft a high-quality argumentative thesis (<http://www.tommarch.com/electraguide/thesis.php>).
5. Choose or craft an engaging essay hook (<http://youtu.be/Rnq17dyxyu4>).
6. Submit your completed Essay Outline for feedback and grading.
7. Review the audio content you have produced and gathered. Read through your Essay Outline and consider how you can tell a different story (maybe “better”) on the same topic in audio media. Review your Listening Reports and use them to form an outline for your Audio Essay. Unlike the Essay Outline, your Audio Essay Outline should include times. You have 20-25 minutes to work with. Make sure you hit all the required elements for the Audio Essay assignment and arrange the different elements in your Audio Essay Outline.

## [Grading]

Essay Outline Points	Audio Essay Outline Points	Criterion
15	15	Completion
20	20	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
10	10	Language: Demonstration of critical reading/writing skills
5	5	Demonstration of research

## **[Essay Outline Template]**

### **I. Introduction**

- A. Hook:**
- B.**
- C.**
- D. Thesis:**

### **II. Definition of Theme**

- A. Topic Sentence:**
- B. Definition 1 and citation:**
- C. Definition 1 Discussion:**
- D. Definition 2 and citation:**
- E. Definition 2 Discussion:**
- F. Definition 3 and citation:**
- G. Definition 3 Discussion:**
- H. Summary of three most important elements of your theme as they manifest in Vegas:**

### **III. Element 1**

- A. Topic Sentence:**
- B. Evidence 1 and citation:**
- C. Discussion of Evidence 1:**
- D. Evidence 2 and citation:**
- E. Discussion of Evidence 2:**
- F. Evidence 3 and citation:**
- G. Discussion of Evidence 3:**
- H. Summation of argument for Topic 1:**

### **IV. Element 2**

- A. Topic Sentence:**
- B. Evidence 1 and citation:**
- C. Discussion of Evidence 1:**
- D. Evidence 2 and citation:**
- E. Discussion of Evidence 2:**
- F. Evidence 3 and citation:**
- G. Discussion of Evidence 3:**
- H. Summation of argument for Topic 2:**

### **V. Element 3**

- A. Topic Sentence:**
- B. Evidence 1 and citation:**
- C. Discussion of Evidence 1:**
- D. Evidence 2 and citation:**
- E. Discussion of Evidence 2:**

- F. Evidence 3 and citation:
- G. Discussion of Evidence 3:
- H. Summation of argument for Topic 2:

#### VI. Conclusion

- A. Transition:
- B. Restatement of thesis:
- C. Next Steps:
- D. Revisit Hook:

#### VII. Works Cited

### [Explicated Essay Outline Template]

#### I. Introduction

- A. Hook: See <http://youtu.be/Rnq17dyxyu4> for help.
- B.
- C.
- D. Thesis: See <http://www.tommarch.com/electraguide/thesis.php> for help.

#### II. Definition of Theme (Use your Theme Prep!)

- A. Topic Sentence: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topic\\_sentence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topic_sentence)
- B. Definition 1 and citation:
- C. Definition 1 Discussion:
- D. Definition 2 and citation:
- E. Definition 2 Discussion:
- F. Definition 3 and citation:
- G. Definition 3 Discussion:
- H. Summary of three most important elements of your theme as they manifest in Vegas:

#### III. Element 1

- A. Topic Sentence: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topic\\_sentence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topic_sentence)
- B. Evidence 1 and citation: *For this and the rest of the "Evidence" elements in the rest of this outline, "evidence" can mean a quotation from one of our books, your Field Trip, or your library research. Consult your Book and Field Trip Reports.*
- C. Discussion of Evidence 1:
- D. Evidence 2 and citation:
- E. Discussion of Evidence 2:
- F. Evidence 3 and citation:
- G. Discussion of Evidence 3:
- H. Summation of argument for Element 1:

#### IV. Element 2

- A. Topic Sentence:
- B. Evidence 1 and citation:
- C. Discussion of Evidence 1:
- D. Evidence 2 and citation:

- E. Discussion of Evidence 2:
- F. Evidence 3 and citation:
- G. Discussion of Evidence 3:
- H: Summation of argument for Element 2:

**V. Element 3**

- A. Topic Sentence:
- B. Evidence 1 and citation:
- C. Discussion of Evidence 1:
- D. Evidence 2 and citation:
- E. Discussion of Evidence 2:
- F. Evidence 3 and citation:
- G. Discussion of Evidence 3:
- H. Summation of argument for Element 3:

**VI. Conclusion**

- A. **Transition:** *Move your reader from the evidence of your essay into summary and argument.*
- B. **Restatement of thesis:** *Say your thesis in a new way.*
- C. **Next Steps:** *Give some suggestions to your readers about what more could be done to understand your theme and Las Vegas.*
- D. **Revisit Hook:** *Say something further about your hook.*

**VII. Works Cited** *Every source you quote, paraphrase, or summarize in your Essay must be cited. Every source cited must be listed in an MLA style Works Cited. Use easybib.com to make perfect citations. Use <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/> for help formatting.*



## [Introduction]

Use your Theme Prep, Book Reports, Field Trip, and library research to construct an essay explaining how your particular theme manifests in Vegas. Your essay should take the form of an argument. All your completed work and your library research will function as evidence to prove your thesis. Your thesis should take a form along these lines: “While most people think of \_\_\_ when they think of Vegas, one of the most important themes to understand when it comes to Vegas is \_\_<your theme>\_\_.”

## [Process]

1. Gather all your evidence: definitions, quotations, etc. and all your existing discussion.
2. Place your existing content in the appropriate places in the Outline Template.
3. Supplement your existing evidence and discussion with library research. Add this to the Outline.
4. Craft a high-quality argumentative thesis  
(<http://www.tommarch.com/electraguide/thesis.php>).
5. Choose or craft an engaging essay hook (<http://youtu.be/Rnq17dyxyu4>).
6. Consider what effect you want your essay to have on readers, particularly how they will benefit from your work.
7. Draft the body of your Essay.
8. Draft and revise an introduction and conclusion.
9. Check that your Works Cited and in-text citations match and are accurate.
10. Submit your Essay to SmartThinking or take it to a Writing Center tutor for revision assistance.
11. Submit your completed Essay for grading.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
20	Completion
30	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
20	Language: Demonstration of critical reading/writing skills
30	Demonstration of research

## [Introduction]

Regular postcards are produced to show off a particular location (a city, a museum, etc.) to people who are unfamiliar with that place. An audio postcard does the same thing. It should give listeners a sense of the sound and atmosphere of a place (an audio version of the postcard picture) and give a short explanation of the significance of the thing commemorated (tourism postcards usually have a paragraph of explanation on the back).

Your piece can tell a story, be a portrait, or provide an experience to listeners. Think about what cool thing about Vegas could you share with people in 3 minutes? The topic of your postcard must relate to our study of Las Vegas. Make a focused, meaningful, and complete audio composition lasting 2-3 minutes. This assignment is extra credit. You may do as many as ten Audio Postcards for 10 extra credit points each. I strongly encourage you to produce these audio postcards throughout the semester instead of waiting until exam week.

## [Examples]

Sonic IDs: <http://transom.org/2013/sonic-ids/>

## [Process]

1. Plan for a type of audio postcard and its content.
2. Write a script/storyboard to know whether your idea can be contained in 2-3 minutes.
3. Record or acquire the audio components needed to compose your project (ambience, narration, interview, effects).
4. Edit and assemble then submit your postcard.

## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
8	3-5 minute sound recording
2	report

## [Audio Postcard Report Template]

Title:

Description of Audio Postcard:

## [Explicated Template]

Theme: *give your piece a title that will encourage people to click!*

Description of Audio Postcard: *100 original words.*

## **[Introduction]**

Use your Theme Prep, book reports, postcards, Discussion Clips, Field Trip, soundscapes, Essay, library research, listening reports, and any additional audio content you deem useful to construct an audio essay explaining how your particular theme manifests in Vegas. While your (written) Essay followed a rigid, prescribed structure, you are encouraged to create a unique new form for your (soundwritten) Audio Essay. You might choose to emulate one of the radio or podcast examples you studied (see your listening reports) or you might find an entirely new form is more appropriate for your work.

In creating your audio essay, you should include audio content from soundscapes (not necessarily those you recorded yourself), your Field Trip, quotations from at least three course texts (read by you or by someone else), content from your Discussion Clips, and a definition of your theme from your Theme Prep. If you like (and if appropriate) you may also use audio clips from movies or other media. Your entire edited Audio Essay should be 20-25 minutes long. Submit the digital audio file (MP3 format) with the Audio Essay Report.

## **[Process]**

1. Gather your Essay, Theme Prep, Field Trip, Soundscapes, and anything else.
2. Consider what story you want to tell or what experience you want to give listeners with your Audio Essay. Consider what tone you want your piece to have.
3. Review your Listening Reports and use these to model an outline for your Audio Essay.
4. Fill in your outline with the different components you've gathered throughout the course. If you need something you haven't already made, make it or find it now.
5. Following your outline, assemble the pieces of your Audio Essay in Audacity.
6. Add any transition, narration, or other new content.
7. Write a Works Cited for every quotation or reference to sources in your Audio Essay.
8. Complete the Audio Essay report.
9. Listen to your entire, complete Audio Essay to proofread. Erm, "proofhear"?
10. Submit your completed Audio Essay and Report for grading.



## [Grading]

Points	Criterion
10	Includes Soundscape content
10	Includes Field Trip content
10	Includes three or more literary quotations
15	Includes Theme Prep definition and Discussion Clip content
30	Content: demonstration of analysis, contextualization, and awareness of diversity
10	Language: Demonstration of critical reading/writing skills
15	Report

## [Audio Essay Report Template]

**Title of Audio Essay:**

**Theme:**

**Length:**

**Soundscape Content Used:**

**Field Trip Content Used:**

**Literary Quotations Used:**

**Theme Prep Definition Used:**

**Transitional or Narrative Content Added:**

**Audio Essay Thesis:**

**Works Cited:**

**What story do you want to tell or what experience do you want your listeners to have after listening to your Audio Essay?:**

**What information does an Audio Essay include that a print Essay does not?:**

**What was most challenging about creating your Audio Essay?:**

**What tip can you give other people who want to make an Audio Essay?:**

**[Explicated Template]**

**Title of Audio Essay:** *Give your Audio Essay a catchy title.*

**Theme:** *Identify your theme.*

**Length:** *How many minutes and seconds is your total Audio Essay (Min:Sec)?*

**Soundscape Content Used:** *50 word summary*

**Field Trip Content Used:** *100 word summary*

**Literary Quotations Used:** *quote and cite*

**Theme Prep Definition Used:** *quote and cite*

**Transitional or Narrative Content Added:** *100 word summary*

**Audio Essay Thesis:** *One sentence*

**Works Cited:** *Works Cited or Bibliography in MLA style of all sources used in your Audio Essay*

**What story do you want to tell or what experience do you want your listeners to have after listening to your Audio Essay?:** *250 words*

**What information does an Audio Essay include that a print Essay does not?:** *250 words*

**What was most challenging about creating your Audio Essay?:** *100 words*

**What tip can you give other people who want to make an Audio Essay?:** *100 words*