

PROJECT 4

Project Title Sequential Storytelling: Comic Strip

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A comic strip is a sequence of drawings, often cartoon, arranged in interrelated panels to display brief humor or form a narrative, often serialized, with text in balloons and captions. Traditionally, throughout the 20th and into the 21st century, these have been published in newspapers and magazines, with daily horizontal strips printed in black-and-white in newspapers, while Sunday papers offered longer sequences in special color comics sections. With the advent of the internet, online comic strips began to appear as webcomics.

Strips are written and drawn by a comics artist, known as a cartoonist. As the word “comic” implies, strips are frequently humorous. Examples of these gag-a-day strips are Blondie, Bringing Up Father, Marmaduke, and Pearls Before Swine. In the late 1920s, comic strips expanded from their mirthful origins to feature adventure stories, as seen in Popeye, Captain Easy, Buck Rogers, Tarzan, and Terry and the Pirates. In the 1940s, soap-opera-continuity strips such as Judge Parker and Mary Worth gained popularity. Because “comic” strips are not always funny, cartoonist Will Eisner has suggested that sequential art would be a better genre-neutral name.

PROJECT GOALS

For this project, you will write and create your own comic strip.

Things to think about in creating your strip:

- Main Idea: Most important idea to communicate.
- Character(s): A person, animal, being, creature, or thing in a story. A story can have just one main character (*the protagonist*) who is responsible for speaking dialogue and performing actions. You may want to use an additional character(s) as an antagonist creating conflict for the protagonist or as a sidekick.
- Setting: The setting is the time and place in which the story takes place and helps set the mood. It can be a specific location – Washington, DC, or a physical location such as on a Ferris wheel or a particular room. Other things to consider are time (*time of day, time of life, period, etc.*), climate/weather, or social and cultural surroundings.
- Conflict: Person vs. Person, Person vs. Nature, Person vs. Society, Person vs. Himself/Herself, Person vs. Technology, Person vs. Fate/God, Person vs. Supernatural.
- Theme: Similar to the idea, yet more significant, the theme plays to reader emotions. It is often thought of as the lesson or message the writer/illustrator wants to get across.
- Tone: This refers to the look and feel of the writing and images. Think of it as the visual and verbal “voice” and stylistic qualities of the writing.

Contemporary examples include:

<https://www.penny-arcade.com/comic>

<http://pvponline.com/comic/>

<http://www.dieselsweeties.com>

<https://xkcd.com>

<https://www.gocomics.com/libertymeadows>

https://www.instagram.com/p/BzV95KIB_c8/?hl=en (*Vlad the Vegan Vampire*)

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum of 1 page (13 x 6.25 inches, you may choose a different size but this is the size of the template)
- Minimum of 3 panels (you may have more, in which you can expand the size of the page to accommodate)
- Must have a title for this strip above the first panel
- Please include your name and copyright below the strip
- Text (*dialog of the characters*)
- Imagery

Use writing, illustration (*can be drawn or photos*), panels, balloons (*speech and thought*), captions, and titles. You can use symbols as characters.

The finals need be saved in PDF format and uploaded to the assignment link on the class' Canvas. For all projects your PDFs should use the following naming conventions. Your First initial and Lastname - Class - ProjectNumber > *FLastname-ART209-Project4.pdf*