Annotated Bibliography & Infographic (200 points)
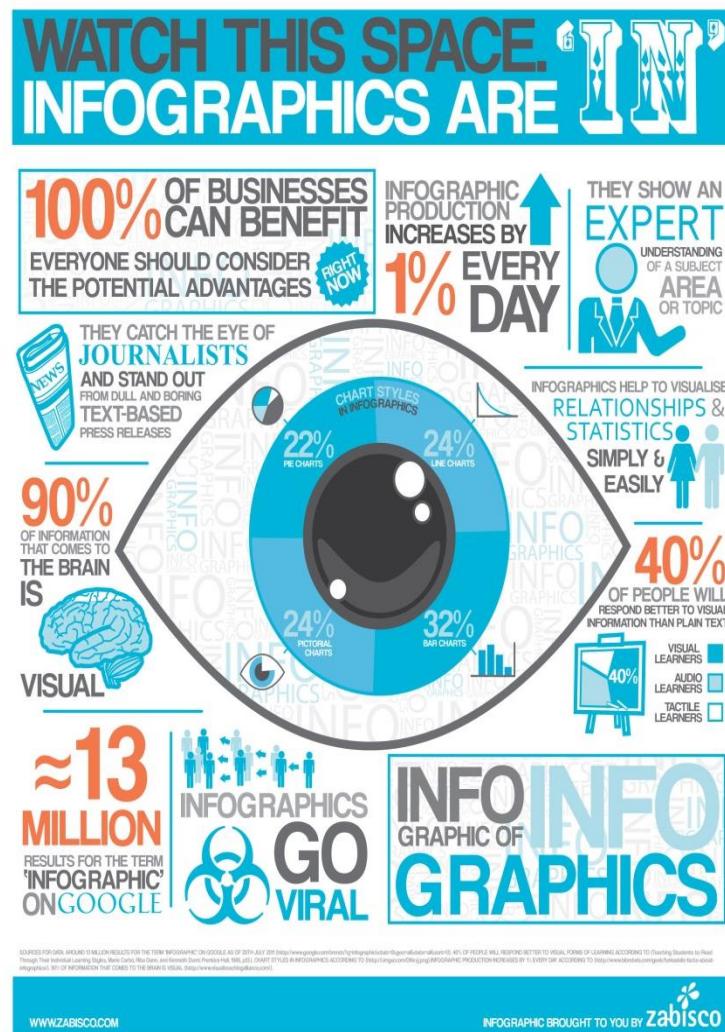
Requirements

- 3,000 – 4,000 words
- 5-8 sources
- Infographic
- MLA Formatting & Citations
- Cover letter

Dates

- Proposal: Due at Conference (2/17 – 2/21)
- Library Research Day: 2/26
- Workshop: 3/3
- Rough Draft: 3/3
- Digital Studio Day: 3/17
- Online Workshop: 3/20
- Final Draft Due: 3/26

Goals

- Experiment composing in multimedia.
- Begin developing library research skills.
- Explore topics in media studies and critically examine media culture and its implications.
- Reflect on writing and its processes in order to cultivate an effective personal writing style and process.

Purpose

For this assignment, which will lead into your research essay and presentation, you will choose one aspect of media culture that interests you and build a bibliography of sources that help you explore the issue in more depth. Compiling this information should help you become an expert in the subject and will ultimately guide you toward forming an argument for the research essay. In order to help you sort through, organize, and make sense of the information you'll encounter, we'll also create an infographic.

Getting Started: Proposals

In order to help you choose a topic to explore, we'll do some invention exercises in class and in our blog posts. After you've spent some time thinking of options, you'll draft a brief proposal to guide your research. The proposal should be at least 350 words and include the following: a brief description of the problem, phenomenon, change, or artifact that you are interested in exploring; a brief rationale for the exploration (why does this topic matter? Who cares? So what?); a discussion of the kinds of publications you'll be interested in surveying for information; 3-5 guiding questions to help direct your research.

We'll go over your proposal and interests in one-on-one conferences and brainstorm an approach for the research.

Infographic on Infographics

outline and sketch

I bet the Sistine Chapel even started out as preliminary scribble. Not that your graphic will be studied in Art History classes, but like any artwork it is best to work out your ideas on paper first...

2

Did you know that **52%** of all infogrfx contain facts that are inaccurate?

(Neither did I, that was made up! Steve 2012)

Research is key. Like any published document, facts and figures should be accurate and referenced...

back up your info

keep it simple

Information should be easy to read and graphics should not be too confusing.

We love these graphics because, unlike most of our lives, they are not too complicated!

(Why do you think USA Today is the 2nd largest newspaper)

According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations' FAS-FAX report, **USA TODAY's** daily print circulation was **1,829,099** for the period ending March 31, 2011.

adaptable layout

Think cross-platform when designing a user friendly graphic. Most of them will be viewed on a smart phone...

* and keep fonts and graphics large enough to read. Is this too small? Sorry!!!

It is much easier to scroll either **horizontally** or **vertically** (Nobody wants to view a poster size document on their phone)

themes help

Like any great design, a theme can make it **stronger** and **memorable.**

Tell a story, inform and try to keep it relevant to the infographic.

Sports   Education   Money   Health   Cats

use images for graphs

Coffee cups, people, animals... Why show a pie for a pie chart when you can replace it with a **nice juicy steak!!!**

25% less fat

It's pretty simple, **Information + pictures.** There really are no rules when creating a fun, interesting infographic.

www.here2thercreative.com   here2there

Getting Started: The Bibliography

As you begin compiling, reading, annotating, and processing sources, you'll draft record an entry for each of the sources in an annotated bibliography. Each annotation should include the following:

1.   A brief summary of the source, including, but not limited, the main argument, how the argument is made (what kinds of evidence, research, or other sources are used), who the audience for the publication is, who the author of the publication is, and where/how the source was published.

2.   An evaluation of the source that addresses biases detected in the source (is the source trying to get you to buy something? Does it leave out certain concerns or ethical problems?); the source's timeliness (an article about digital music published before Napster might not be useful any longer); and the author's credentials (this may take a bit of research or googling). Is this is a reputable and reliable source?

3.   A response to the source which indicates you thoughts and opinions on the subject matter. Do you agree or disagree with the author's stance? Why or why not? What questions does this source leave you with? What would you like to know more about? What changed for you (or didn't change) after reading the source?

Use the questions above as a guide, but use your own discretion about what information is important to include. Each entry should have a summary, evaluation, and response, but doesn't necessarily need to answer all of the questions above.

Source Requirements

For this bibliography, you'll be using traditional library research methods. We'll talk more about finding sources through the library databases in class. To practice these methods, you'll be required to use the following:

- 3 to 5 academic journal articles, books, or book chapters.
- At least 1 reliable web sources (.gov, .edu, .org)
- At least 1 non-Academic source (newspaper, magazine, blog, etc.)

You may use non-Academic sources from the library or the internet in addition to the sources listed above at your own discretion. Those sources, however, should be reliable and accurate. Sources from sites such as Wikipedia, WikiHow, WikiAnswer, eHow or other platforms may not be reliable or suitable for this project.
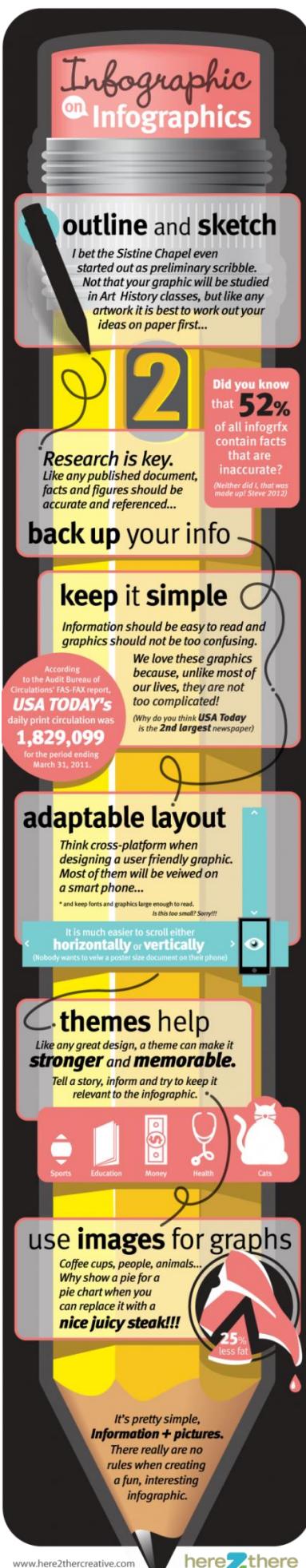
Formatting the Bibliography

We will go over formatting the bibliography in class, but you can find more information about how to format an annotated bibliography at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/

The Infographic

As you can see from the infographics I've included here, infographics are not only useful in spreading information, but they're visually interesting and fun to make. Making the infographic will help you see connections between the research you do and potential areas for further investigation, which will be crucial as we embark on the research essay. Composing the infographic will also help you think about the ways we encounter visual information and choices composers make

when using visual mediums. If you're savvy with Photoshop or some other software, you are free to work in whatever platform you'd like. For those of you without mad photoshop skillz, we'll spend a class in the Digital Studio getting acquainted with Easelly, a free infographic designing platform.

Cover Letter

This assignment will also include a cover letter. In this cover letter, I'd like you to reflect on the connections you've seen between sources and how they will shape your further inquiry into the topic. Discuss themes, disconnects, or other issues you noticed as well. I'd also like you to include some information your research process: how did you find sources? Was it difficult? Did you find as many as you'd hoped? Were there too many? Lastly, reflect on creating your infographic. How did you decide what connections to represent? How did you decide what information to include› How did you decide to represent the information visually?