

A Prompt for a Multimedia Presentation on the History of a Fairy Tale

Your group will present to the class a 30-minute, multimedia talk on the fairy tale that you researched this semester. You will present a “history” of your tale, detailing the ways that it has changed from its origins to the present. You comment not only upon character- and plot-based changes but upon changes that have resulted from changes in the media that deliver the story. In short, I would like you to explain to your colleagues the process by which the printed story that I distributed at the beginning of the semester was transformed into the most recent movie or web site.

Each member of the group must present for at least six minutes. You must incorporate into your presentation at least four of the six media considered in English studies: oral, manuscript, print, performance, film/video, and electronic.

Your presentations should be learned and professional, but that does not mean that they should be dry or wholly scripted. Rather, aim to emulate the performance of the most effective speaker that you know. Use notes or an outline if necessary, but *do not stand there and read from a script*. Vary your pitch and tone, move around, make eye contact with the people in the audience, and use your space. You have become an expert on your particular fairy tale. Now is your chance to share that expertise with a group of other fairy-tale experts who are eager to acquire your specialized knowledge.

Remember that you are presenting as part of a group. This means that you should rehearse not only your part of the presentation but the entire presentation as a whole. Pay particular attention to transitions between speakers and to the ways that people who are not speaking can help the person who is (passing out handouts, operating the TV/VCR, etc.). Time your group’s presentation. Does each speaker speak for at least six minutes? Is the whole presentation precisely 30 minutes in length? Does your group employ at least four media during its presentation? How well does it incorporate those media? Practice!

Sixty percent of your grade will consist of a letter grade for your group’s performance, and 40% of your grade will consist of a letter grade for your individual performance. Thus, you would be wise to devote the bulk of your efforts to ensuring the excellence of the group’s overall performance, then worry about your individual performance as time permits.

Adapted with permission from a prompt by Dr. Don-John Dugas,
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