UN 2001  
Revisions  
Fall 2004  
Instructor – Becky Soderna

**Final Project – Public Spaces**

**Background:** Throughout the semester we have been exploring ways in which stories are incorporated into our collective cultural consciousness. We have explored the media’s use of narrative strategies, the power of visual narrative to tell a story in a way that is very different from a written text and the ways in which public spaces are used as sites of both community storytelling and resistance. Now it is time to begin to formulate our own ideas and opinions about the most effective way to tell a story by utilizing a combination of written, oral and visual modes of communication.

**Assignment:** Each group will first identify an issue of importance to explore more fully; this can be a local issue, a global issue or something relevant to our MTU community.

As a group you will then decide about the public space in which you would like to create your visual narrative/argument which will serve to inform the public/tell a story about the issue you have selected.

In selecting your public space you will need to identify the entity which has dominion over this space (city, private owner, board of directors, university etc.) as this will be the audience to whom your grant proposal is directed.

Using the proposal writing strategies we have identified in class you will write an 8-10 page, fully documented proposal which outlines the following:

- The issue you propose to illuminate – the historical background/context of the issue, the current concerns related to the issue and (if possible) potential solutions
- The visual project you propose to construct/design/create – details of the process
- The project’s benefit to the public/community
- The proposed impact of the project
You will also create your visual project – this is to be a model, draft, blueprint, web site – a (tangible) visual representation of the project you propose to create.

During Week 14, each group will present their proposal and project to the class – we, as audience, will play the role of your identified audience so you must be prepared to present your oral argument as you would to this audience (think about the different ways you present to potential corporate sponsors, educational institutions, service clubs etc. – tailor your presentation to the specific audience).

**Time-line:**

**Week 11 – Monday and Wednesday – Group Conferences** to discuss projects with instructor – we will schedule these during Week 10 – if your group is not scheduled for a conference you do not need to come to class, however, I would suggest you use the time to meet with your group.

- **Friday – Library – Research Day** – library staff will help us to identify potential sources specific to the topics you have selected.

**Week 12 - First Draft DUE Monday November 15** – please bring 2 copies of your proposal and visual design for peer conferencing (these will be rough at this stage). Each group will conference with two other groups.

- **Wednesday – Group Work Day**
- **Friday – TBA**

**THANKSGIVING RECESS**

**Week 13 - Second Draft DUE Monday November 29** – please bring your edited draft (1 copy) as well as your first draft(s) with comments from your peers, your project designs and your source materials for peer conferencing.

- **Wednesday – Group Work Day**
- **Friday –** (we will use this day to answer final questions about the presentations, request audio/visual equipment, etc. as well as to talk again about portfolios)

**Week 14 – Monday and Wednesday – FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

You have all done excellent work this semester – I look forward to this project being a culmination of all that you have learned and have to share about the intersections between visual, oral and written communication – GOOD LUCK!!