British Literature
University Laboratory High School
Fall 2014-Spring 2015
Infographic Assignment

“Let the data set change your mind set.”
— Hans Roselyn

PART I: YOUR TASK AS A GROUP

Select and research your topic. Then, following the guidelines of effective data visualization brainstormed in class, construct an infographic with the discovered information. While your group’s infographic should be aesthetically appealing, the focus of this assignment is on constructing a “map” that will navigate viewers through the wilderness of data in which they might otherwise lose their way. The goal is to take “living data” and give it form. In other words, this assignment aims to clearly and concisely “design” the researched information and to convincingly use words and images to communicate your interpretation of that data.

The primary question to answer is: “how can I visualize my research in a way that represents my argument with greater speed, clarity, and enjoyment than a written essay?” To answer this question, you will need to distill your research to the most crucial points and invent ways to visualize your interpretation of them.

You will also need to keep track of your sources. Maintain a list (i.e., a bibliography) of links to all the information you encounter in your research. Furthermore, all information included in your infographic should be documented in a Works Cited. The documentation should be integrated into the infographic’s design and follow MLA guidelines. It may be small and at the bottom, but it must be there.

So, your completed infographic should:

- Visualize the most important points of your research topic
- Represent your interpretation of the data
- Construct an argument that persuades the viewer to believe, even if only temporarily, your interpretation
- Responsibly document your sources
- Demonstrate that data is beautiful

Library Research Guide
http://uiuc.libguides.com/sophomoreinfographic

Some tools for creating infographics:

Adobe Illustrator (installed on computers in the Uni Mac Lab)
Microsoft Publisher (installed on computers in the Uni PC Lab)
easel.ly (template based online infographics maker)
http://www.easel.ly
Advice for Creating Infographics:

10 Tips for Designing Infographics
https://digitalnewsgathering.wordpress.com/2010/04/24/10-tips-for-designing-infographics/

How to Strike the Elusive Balance Between Data and Visualization
https://www.lucidchart.com/personahomepage

PART II: INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Write a one-page, typed, double-spaced paper about the process of creating your infographic in your group. Your paper should flow like an essay rather than a series of answers to questions.

As you compose, think about the following questions:

What did you learn about information design from this assignment? If “data is the new soil,” how did you cultivate and enrich the data in order to grow and harvest new ideas from it? In the process of constructing the infographic, what patterns did you see in your body of research? How did data visualization allow you to discover linkages between otherwise disconnected facts? Are you happy with your group’s final infographic? Is it true that the data set can change your mind set?

TIMELINE:

4/27 — Activity: Research Day (class meets in library)
4/28 — Activity: Research Day (class meets in library)
4/29 — Activity: Work on INFOGRAPHIC ESSAY
4/30 — Activity: Work on INFOGRAPHIC ESSAY
5/4 — Activity: PEER REVIEW OF INFOGRAPHIC ESSAY
5/11 — Deadline: SUBMIT INFOGRAPHIC ESSAY: GALLERY WALK