

Shape of an Essay: Finding the Design

"Design is that activity which is primarily concerned with changing the world....[T]he goals in designing are not fixed, and determining them is part of the designing." - John Gero

Purpose

In this assignment you are going to consider the design of an essay: how Gloria Anzaldua arranges the ideas, sections, stories, and words in her essay, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue," to serve a particular purpose. As you do this, consider how this can inform your own writing process.

What can you learn from writing by actively reading and analyzing Anzaldua's essay?

Course Goal

2. Apply key rhetorical concepts (writer, audience, subject, purpose, and context) in order to analyze and compose a variety of texts.
3. Analyze texts as purposeful responses to a variety of situations and contexts as well as products of social identity (e.g., gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and social class).

Module Goal

This week we are looking at the shape that essays take and considering *why* essays are shaped the many, many ways they are.

Antiracist Goals

Anzaldua's anti-colonialist essay examines language, the ways in which language has been used to oppress, and is a model of language empowerment. Here we will consider how she uses the form of her essay to supplant prescriptive expectations and values to find and make her own language.

Task Instructions

Use the tools in Powerpoint or Google Slides (or another tool that makes sense to you) to outline/draw/map/illustrate the shape of Anzaldua's "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" essay. You can do this on a single slide OR in a multi-slide presentation.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- What are the "sections" of the essay?
- How (and where) does the author move from one idea to another?
- What is the controlling idea of the essay? How do the paragraphs relate to this idea?
- What parts of the essay seem most important to you? What factors indicated this importance to you?

Then, save/download your slide(s) as a JPEG, PDF, or a slide show and upload to this assignment.

Completion Criteria

Submit to complete this assignment.