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*

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### 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

1. Apply key rhetorical concepts (writer, audience, subject, purpose, and context) in order to analyze and compose a variety of texts.
2. 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.