

Writing-to-Embody:

Written Role Play and Intertextuality

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What is written role play? (1 of 3)

Context	Tasks	Goals
Elementary (mainstream)	<p><i>If our class pet could talk, what do you think she would say to us?</i></p> <p><i>Pretend you are running for class president. Write a brochure (or speech) about why you would be a good choice.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enjoy writing• Play with voice and 'perspective'• Integrate language and content

What is written role play? (2 of 3)

Context	Task	Goals
<p>Middle School</p> <p>(content-based or mainstream)</p>	<p><i>You are a pioneer on the Oregon Trail. Write a journal about your experiences as you head West.</i></p> <p><i>Imagine one of the characters from our class novel has an advice column, responding to letters from other characters.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrate content (e.g. LA/SS)• Play with genre & voice• Make connections: <i>Text-to-Self</i> <i>Text-to-Text</i> <i>Text-to-World</i>

What is written role play? (3 of 3)

Context	Task	Goals
<p>High School and College</p> <p>(ESL/ mainstream)</p>	<p><i>Write a dialogue or letter/email exchange among the authors we've been reading. Assume they've read each other's work.</i></p> <p><i>Imagine putting together a panel of speakers to talk about the DREAM Act (or another piece of legislation). Who would you include? What questions would they ask each other? Write out the conversation as you envision it.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore intertextuality• Analyze and synthesize readings• Prepare for research papers and/or persuasive essays

Why Written Role Play?

- **Writing-to-Think**
 - Creative *and* Critical
- **Writing-to-Embody**
 - Language play (“ludic”) → Ownership
 - Experimenting with genre, voice, style, etc.
- **Writing-to-Read and Reading-to-Write**
 - Exploring Intertextuality (more on this Sat @ 3pm 😊)

Intertextuality

- Incorporating key details from readings and discussion
- Putting authors (and/or ‘personas’) into conversation
 - Quotes and paraphrase
- Playing with voice, genre, tone, etc.
 - “Sounding smart”
 - Possible parody
- Exploring hybridity
 - Academic discourse *and* Creative writing

Summary and Response

Dear John Berger,

After reading your article ...I have become troubled with one of the points that you make...You state that words are not capable of representing all of the ideas and emotions that paintings can. This assertion is absurd! Simply put, images are much too ambiguous...Words on the other hand, are a much more precise method of communication. There is less confusion with a carefully constructed sentence, then with even the most carefully planned painting. ...

To Alan Gross,

...I must present my rebuttal to your argument against my claim regarding the “images vs. words” debate. I must remind you that what I said was simply my way of viewing the subject. ..I understand your point in regard to the potential confusion of images, but I must admit that I believe that in itself is part of art’s power.[...]

Quotation and Critique

Noam Chomsky questions Michael Moore about Fahrenheit 9/11

Chomsky: Do you believe Fox news has been trying to “serve, and propagandize on behalf of, the powerful societal interests that control and finance it”? In this case, Bush family?

Moore: I saw a strong relationship between those two, media and politics. As I have seen in the documentary, I revealed this and tried to inform the public.

Chomsky: However, you are also a part of media culture and you had founded the film distribution company called “Dog Eat Dog Films”. I am just wondering how could you be objective about media culture when you are in part of it.

Self-reflection and knowledge gaps

Marty: ...I saw on an online magazine that gay marriage is going to be legal here in New Hampshire starting January 1st.

Jane: You should watch a video of O'Really of Fox News online, that guy puts gay marriage completely out of the place! He compares it to marrying human beings to turtles and ducks. He made me laugh.

Jesse: That's just a way of dismissing gay marriage. He uses that to misguide the audience. That's what the media does any way!

Jane: (Laughing) that is very true. The media is turning into an entertainment source rather than informative.

Marty: Wow, that sounds interesting, but Jane is right – it's hard to tell when to rely on the media these days. On the other hand, there are a lot of online postings on gay marriage and such debates lately; both on video and magazines. They all have some truth in them!

Playing with voice

1. It's quite flattering that you've chosen to write me ...I have always respected your work, and to hear from such an esteemed colleague is quite an honor! And, I must admit, your timing is impeccable, as I was actually about to write to you, regarding my most recent work..."

2. I agree with you that ...However, I do not fully acknowledge that...

-Oh? How is that so?

Well, first of all... Personally, I believe... Would you not agree?

-The reason I believe [this] is because...

Please, go on.

-I have to admit...

Genre play and “hybridity”

From: Gross't_Writer@msn.com, To: BergerKing@gmail.com
Subject: Better than lit?

Hey John, How've you been, old buddy? I was reading part of Ways of Seeing when I noticed you argue that “images are more precise and richer than literature.” What's that all about? [...]

Hey Alan, Haha! [...] Point taken, my friend [...] My mother always told me, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” And how true she was. Rather than having to describe a situation or metaphor, thanks to reproduction, images can instantaneously present a situation for the onlooker to analyze. In fact, I just got a new printer last week, and rather than reading the directions, I followed the step by step picture instructions. [...]

Lingering questions...

1. What are the pitfalls?
2. How can this be scaffolded and/or expanded?
3. What about assessment?
4. Other questions, comments, etc.?

For more information...

<http://shawnashapiro.com/>

has this ppt, bibliography, more samples of student work, and many of my other teaching resources 😊

Thank you!

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