

OVERVIEW

One of the most fascinating aspects of *The Simpsons* is how it appropriates aspects of American culture and remakes them for its own comedic purposes. In this project, you will work in groups in order to remix clips from *The Simpsons* or another television show or film. This remix should be three to five minutes long. Most importantly, it should recast, rethink, or challenge the original narrative in a significant way. For instance, you might remix an action film to emphasize feminist themes. Or, you might strategically remix a romantic comedy into a horror film. In any case, the group remix will be submitted with an individual rationale that explains the creative choices and thematic effects of the project.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1) Engage with the postmodern aesthetic of *The Simpsons* by reshaping another television show or film.
- 2) Create a video remix that makes a significant thematic statement that differs substantially from the original text.
- 3) Explain creative choices clearly in an individual essay that provides a rationale for your remix.

RATIONALE

We have discussed how *The Simpsons* cannibalizes other texts at a rapid pace in keeping with the values of postmodernism. In this project, you will cannibalize another text, make it your own, and produce a coherent clip that substantially alters the source text.

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

- 1) Your Video Remix should be three to five minutes in length.
- 2) Your Video Remix should be comprehensible even to someone who has not seen the show or film.
- 3) Your Video Remix should diverge from the themes of the original television show or film.
- 4) Your Video Remix should incorporate high quality footage.
- 5) Your individual rationale (two to three pages) should explain how the choices you made reshaped the original narrative in an important way.

FORMATTING

You should create your video in one of the following formats: MP4, MOV, WMV, AVI, or FLV.

GRADING CATEGORIES (listed in order of importance)

- 1) Thematic Shift: The Video Remix should alter the themes of the original text in a significant way.
- 2) Rationale: The essay should clearly explain why you made the choices you did and what thematic effects they have.
- 3) Technical Features: The video should be high quality and the audio easy to hear. At no point should the technical aspects of the video undermine your content.

TECHNOLOGY

If you need to rip a DVD, HandBrake is an easy-to-use free option for creating movie files. You should also feel free to rip footage from YouTube, but be sure to select at least 720p resolution to ensure high quality footage.