Final Projects- Intermediate Rea 091

In the Rea 091 course I provide more options for Final Projects. I use the procedure below:

1. When students are two-thirds of the way through the book, I introduce the projects. Students receive handout page 2, Final Project Options and Guidelines. I go over it in class.

2. I provide students with samples of student projects from previous semesters. I pass samples around the class while go over the options. When students are able to look at the sample projects, it also stimulates more interest in the assignment.

3. I emphasize that there is no option to retell the book. Students must choose a specific option and follow the directions carefully. They must label their Final Project # 1, 2 or # 3 and so on.

4. Students must decide what option they will use by the next class. I check in with them during our 15 minute silent reading time. I ask questions and see that they are on track.

5. By the next week, students must provide me with an outline, or some written information that explains what they will do.

6. Students are given a rubric that explains how their projects will be graded (page 4).

7. When possible, projects are hung on the wall or bulletin board in the classroom so students can share their work with each other. This activity can also stimulate interest in reading the novels.

Note: In developmental reading courses, if you do not provide direction and samples of what to do, the struggling students in the class will do nothing because they did not understand the assignment or they will turn in a very poor project. Unfortunately, they are the least likely students to ask questions. It is important to walk them through the project, step by step, and provide explicit directions. I receive much better projects now because I show them samples and give clear, comprehensive directions.
Final Project Options and Guidelines Rea 091

After you complete each book you will be asked to complete a culminating activity. This will help you reach some closure with the book as well as give you the opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned from this experience.

Below is a list of activities for you to choose from to create your final project.

THERE IS NO OPTION TO WRITE A RETELLING OF THE BOOK OR A SUMMARY OF IT.

If you do one of the written activities ( # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ) you must write at least 500 words. If you do # 6 you must write up a few paragraphs explaining your artwork. If you choose # 8 or 9 speak to me about the project to set guidelines. If you do #7 it should contain the same amount of information you see on an authentic book cover.

This is a “final” project and that means you must write a rough draft, and edit your work to correct your grammar and spelling. Then turn in a final paper. Your paper must be neat, and legible. These assignments do count a large percentage of your grade so spend enough time on them that you can do well.

If you are doing more than one final project over the semester, you may want to try something different each time.

1. REVIEW- Write a review of your book. You can recommend or not recommend it. You can critique the book. Explain your reactions to the book. What did you like and/or dislike about it? Was it predictable or did it keep you guessing? What was your favorite part and/or the best or worst part? Was it a valuable book? Why or why not? Who might want to read it? How is it alike or different from other books by this author or other books in the same genre? What have you learned from this book? Do not retell the book. Focus on evaluating it. (500 wds.)

2. LETTER TO AUTHOR-Write a letter to the author of your book. Ask questions, make comments, and/or share your reactions to the book. Tell what you thought about the book and tell what the book meant to you and why. Refer to specific things from the book when you write. If the book had a powerful influence on you explain why. Explain what you learned from the story. This letter can actually be sent. The best part of this assignment is that sometimes the author will write back to you. We can send your letter through the publisher. Some authors have email addresses and you can try and send your letter that way also. Before letters are actually sent, I must proofread them so you can make some minor corrections and send out a finished piece of writing. (500 words)

3. LETTER TO CHARACTER- Write a letter to a character in your book. You can take the role of friend, advisor, critic or counselor. The letter can describe your connection to the character. You can give advice, ask questions, and/or tell the character what you think of their behaviors-good or bad. It should contain any kind of information you would include if you really were communicating with this person. Your letter will need to make reference to events that happened in the book and it must focus on the major issues dealt with in the novel. If you are proud of the character tell them. If you think your character made some terrible mistakes it is fine to let them know that too. Do not just go on and on telling them about your life. Your letter must relate to the novel. (500 words)
4. **NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**-Write a front page newspaper article about one incident in your book. Provide significant information such that you explain who was involved, what happened and when and where it took place. Include things that would be in a real newspaper. What are the police, the family, the neighbors saying and/or doing? What do people speculate will happen next? Include people interviewed about the incident. This can be witnesses and/or people involved directly. Be creative and original in your headline and storyline. You may have to write two news articles that cover two major events from the book in order to make it the appropriate length. **Refer to your local newspaper to get ideas about how news articles are written.** Do not just retell the events, you need to use your imagination and give what happened, what people are saying,(quote them) and how people are reacting. (500 words)

5. **COMPARING THE BOOK TO THE MOVIE**- When you have completed the book, rent the movie. Then write a paper comparing the two. Tell how they are alike and different. Explain which you prefer and why. Include things about the story line, the depth of character development, your ability to follow the story, whether it held your interest, the pace of the story etc. Did the characters look the way you expected them to? Did the movie help you understand the setting better? Did the movie writers change the book? If so, how? (500 words)

6. **BOOK COVER**- Design a book cover for your book. This should include an illustration, or collage and some kind of artistic design that demonstrates what your book is about. You should give a description of the book on the inside and outside flaps of the book. The back side or inside back cover should have information about the author. You should quote some people who have read the book. **(be creative and write your own, don’t copy any quotes from the real book cover)** Use enough words and pictures that you have a complete project. **Take a look at a few real book covers before starting. You should have a comparable amount of information on your cover. Pretend you have been hired to make a book cover- Do not copy anything from the original book cover- make everything yourself. Do not go on-line and just copy pictures from a movie about this novel, use original pictures that demonstrate the theme.** Spend enough time on the project that it looks neat, complete, meaningful and artistic.

7. **COLLAGE**- Create a collage that captures the feeling of the book. Use some pictures, and/or your own illustrations. Include some words or quotes from the story that are significant. Your collage should highlight major events or issues dealt with in the book. It should focus on the theme. **(Don’t just go to a web site and print five or more pictures from the movie based on this book).** Find original pictures that demonstrate the theme and major events. Write a few paragraphs explaining your collage and how it connects to the book. Use enough words and pictures that you have a complete project. Spend enough time on the project that it looks neat, complete, meaningful and artistic.

8. **WILD CARD**- Combine two or more options and create your own unique project. **Present your ideas to me before you begin.**

9. **ORIGINAL IDEA**- If you have a better idea than any of those presented, explain the idea to me and perhaps you can try it.
Evaluation of Final Project - Rea081-091

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EVALUATION FOR WRITTEN PROJECTS

1. _______ Paper is well written with a logical organization and smooth transition through ideas. The paper has a clear introduction, middle and conclusion.

2. _______ Paper is adequately detailed such that it addresses all the required components on the “Final Project Options and Guidelines”.

3. _______ Paper demonstrates a clear understanding of the major concepts and themes of the book.

4. _______ Paper is written in student’s own words. When not using one’s own words, the writer quotes the original author including page number and source. Quotes are not used excessively.

5. _______ Paper includes correct punctuation and grammar.

6. _______ Paper is the appropriate length (500 words)

7. _______ Paper is original and create

Total ___________/35

EVALUATION OF COLLAGE OR BOOKCOVER

1. _______ Project is comprehensive and addresses all the required components on handout “Final Project Options and Guidelines.”

2. _______ Project demonstrates a clear understanding of the major concepts and themes of the book.

3. _______ Project demonstrates originality and creativity. (ie. you have not just printed pictures from a web site on the book)

4. _______ Project is neat, attractive and artistic.

Total ___________/20