

What Can We Do About the Archive Project?

As I emailed to everyone, I'm not happy with the way that the project is going. I'm completely open to suggestions to fix it. Share suggestions under the questions below, and please indicate your name and section time so that I can follow up if I have questions.

1. What can we do to make the project more engaging and fun? Assume that the only thing you have to keep is your topic. Everything else can change.

Kira Jersild 10:10 - I think that the archive is still a good idea, but I think it could be proposed as more of a personal blog post about the event. We can still post all five modes (pictures, personal accounts of movement, links, videos) but by posing it like a blog post, we are allowed to bring ourselves into the situation.

Mary Rose 10:10- Make it an open ended advertisement to an incoming Hokie. You can still have the five modes be a requirement, but let us make it into our own project, and allow us to be personal with the project if we desire (personal testimonies to why the place or event is something fun to us/why we chose it).

Lauren M 10:10- The subject matter itself isn't extremely interesting in my opinion. The five modes of communication are fine, but I think the overwhelming aspect comes from having to originally provide all those modes. It would be more enjoyable if we were able to use photos, or at least videos, that are already out there to compile all this information. Because archives generally compile info that's already there, so having to create our own information doesn't seem to make sense. I'm also in agreement with Kira's idea about using the blogs.

Devon Keyes (11:15): the issue I have with the archival of major Virginia Tech locations (etic, emic, or otherwise) is that Virginia Tech is such a well-known place that one can basically *google* all of these places to find more information about everything on the list; that is, all of the stuff we're to archive has pretty much already been archived. I do think the idea of a multimodal project is an excellent foundation, though—actually, it's a great project in and of itself. Entailing it in what appears to be a *secondary* project (the archival of VT) seems, at best, restricting. Personally, I'd drop the archive in its entirety, focus on simply making an open-ended, multimodal project that utilizes at least three of the five modes we've discussed. This allows for better creative options and a wider array of submission details.

Elizabeth Setaro (1:25): I personally liked the idea of the project at first but once I got started I started to dislike it. Since I'm in your last section of the day I feel like our class was at a disadvantage because all the "good" physical places were taken so I had to choose something I

wasn't really interested in or excited about doing. I do agree with Devon that most places at Virginia Tech you can just google, so going out and getting artefacts could be surpassed which then defeats the idea of the project. I like Kira's idea as a blog post as well because it allows us to essentially make it our own. The thing is, I don't like my topic so if I could I would change everything, besides the fact that we have to come up with 5 modes.

Grace S. (10:10) - I think it could be neat to present this archive in categories. Almost like a "We Are VT" website that is divided into sections such as sports, arts, places, etc. It could be a more user-friendly/interactive version of the VT site. And we could make it more colloquial - written by college students for incoming college students - as opposed to the professional tone used on VT's main site.

Phillip C. (11:15) - I can understand why some of the people who didn't get their first choice of topic or who are struggling to find a suitable topic might be turned off to the idea of the project. Letting us choose our topic is always welcomed so I appreciate that aspect of the project, but it's almost making me more confused to have such broad options. I very much enjoy any project that allows us to show our school spirit and contribute to others who care about Virginia Tech, so in this sense the project is great. I wouldn't mind throwing out the project for something different, as i'm sure you or a collaboration of students have some great ideas.

Maggie S. (11:15) - I think that it would make things a lot more manageable and enjoyable if we could choose two or three of the modes instead of doing all five. That would allow us to get more creative with the modes we choose.

Robbie A (1:25) - I agree with the idea that a lot of the topics can be simply googled, but what moving from individual things to how you experience them? For example, how does one join a student organization? How does someone experience athletics beyond just Football Games? How do people use things like the Writing Center to become a better writer? In other words, focusing on the *why* and *how*, rather than simply the *what*.

2. What suggestions do you have for publishing your project online? This is a digital media course, and all the work is supposed to be published on the Internet in public sites. Within those constraints, what might make things more interesting without being too complicated?

Kira Jersild 10:10 - I think you should have us do it on our WordPress sites as another blog post. That way we already know the system and have a general understanding of setting things up, and can make the page professional and interesting.

Mary Rose 10:10- either let us make a website for it (possibly), or design a flyer that would be used in an email advertisement, or make a video advertisement on youtube.

Lauren M 10:10- I second Kira's idea. It's familiar, we know it, and it will add content to our somewhat small and unfinished portfolios. Going off of Mary's idea, doing a social media themed post to incoming Hokies would also be an interesting twist.

Grace S. (10:10) - I agree with Kira's idea as well. Or even make a class site, but I'm not entirely sure how complicated that would be for everyone to collaborate (considering how slow WordPress has been).

Elizabeth Setaro (1:25) I agree with Kira, a WordPress site would be the most familiar as well as easy to work with. Maybe we could submit our posts to you, and then they could all be added to our class WordPress site.

Adrienne R (10:10) - I like the idea of the Wordpress site since it will be another post that we can add to our website to add to it's archive.

Phillip C (11:15) - I like the idea of the Wordpress site as well. I think everyone should be fairly familiar with it and we can continue adding to our site. Creating something for incoming Hokies would definitely be interesting.

Robbie A (1:25) - If we're looking for community sourcing, why not something like [MediaWiki](#)? It would require learning Wiki's simple markup, but would create a wiki that any student could add to. Like Wordpress, it's free and open source and gives a very similar experience to Wikipedia

3. What else do we need to consider? What else is important? Use this question to tell me about anything else related to the project.

Kira Jersild 10:10 - I personally liked the project, and am excited to do it. However, I am bad at learning new sites, so having it be on Wordpress or even a cool Powerpoint page that we could print out like a flyer, would eliminate any stress having to do with the project.

Lauren M 10:10- Wasn't a fan of the project, but having more of an independent aspect to it makes it more appealing.

Grace S. (10:10) - I really liked the idea of this project and have already collected the information needed to cover my topic, so I would be disappointed to see this project changed drastically. I like the idea of creating PDFs. Maybe we could create a flyer of some sort that advertises are place, event, etc. and they could all be posted online.

Samantha D (1:25) - I agree with Lauren M, I liked that this was more of an independent project. The stock photo project was a fun group project because we had class time to do it, making it easier.

Phillip C. (11:15) - An option between the Archive project and an alternative to give those who are high on the project and those who are sour grapes a choice to ensure everyone is going to enjoy and get value from whatever they select would be nice. I don't know how complicated that would be from a professor's standpoint, but choices usually allow us to feel more comfortable and exhibit our strengths better. Just a thought!