

English 10 - *House of Leaves* Remix Assignment

Douglass / Pokornowski

Spring 2014



Post: Tue May 6th

Due: Tue May 20th (by the beginning of lecture)

- Create a remix of a specific page from *House of Leaves*
- Email your remix (to two addresses, with appropriate tags)
- Write two short responses (page description and remix analysis) and submit via online form

A “remix” is a version which has been altered -- extended, rearranged, added to and / or cut. The word “remix” commonly describes an altered song (whose tracks have been “mixed again”), and may also refer to remixed arts such as images, video, and literature. Techniques such as sampling in music, collage in visual art, montage in film, and cut-up in literature may all be used to remix.**

House of Leaves often presents pages as a mix of material. In this assignment, creatively remixing one page is a way to explore form-content relationships while thinking about literature as media.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Your remix will be evaluated on its engagement and labor, *not* on your artistic abilities or mastery of image editing. The assignment will be graded on the following criteria:

Creative Remix (5 points)

Engages with the page in two or more ways, addresses the relation between form and content, significant labor evident (or made evident through explanation in form essays)

Short Essay Form (10 points)

All form information must be filled out completely and correctly (1pt), including two short essays, one descriptive ("Describe the Page", 3 points) and one critical ("Remix Analysis", 6 points). Write formally for the short essays, as you would for short essay questions on an exam.

Steven Pokornowski co-designed this assignment, will be grading the remixes and short essays. Questions about the assignment should be directed to him rather than section leads; see FAQ.

** For more information on a broad understanding of remix see “[Remix Defined](#)” and [Remix Theory](#) by Eduardo Navas; see also [Remix Culture](#) by Lawrence Lessig.

Create your Remix

To complete your remix you must creatively change the visual layout of the page -- rearrange, add to, or subtract from the visual appearance of one page from *House of Leaves*, creating a new image. Your new page should preserve aspects of the original page and comment on how that page presents, mediates, or complicates meaning.

<p>You must do two or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● rearrange the layout (cut / paste / fold)● highlight● delete (or strike out)● add images / illustrations● mark (write or draw)	<p>For examples, see Appendix A: Gallery (below)</p>
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Your changes must be substantial, reflect critically on the relation of form and meaning in the novel, and relate to important elements of the novel such as characters, events, or themes.

1. Choose a page.

Your page should interest you, both visually and in its story.

2. Acquire an image of your page.

You may either create an image of that page yourself (via digital camera / scanner, see FAQ), or you may download a blurred copy of your page (which respects copyright by obscuring the text) from House of Layouts (<http://houseoflayouts.org/>).

3. Remix your page.

Option 1: Digital Remix

Use an image editor to add annotations, illustrations, images, maps, or whatever else you imagine to remix your page. You can work with offline or online image editing programs, whichever you prefer.

- Offline: Adobe Photoshop and GIMP (the GNU Image Manipulation Program) are powerful but may require prior familiarity, using tutorials and documentation, and / or patience.
- Online: Many online image editors support image remixing; we currently recommend one of these robust and user-friendly options: pixlr.com; fotoflexor.com; or picmonkey.com.

Option 2: "Digital" Remix

Using your fingers is the alternate "digital" route. You may print a paper page to remix by hand -- with highlighters, pens, scissors and glue, folding, burning, or whatever you find useful. You *must* to create a digital photo / scan of the final product in order to turn it in by email.

Submit your Remix Email

1. Address a new email to *both* email addresses:

u5csqgtwyph@tumblr.com

english10introduction@gmail.com

This will ensure that your post is successful and that we have a record of your submission.

2. Write “House of Leaves Remix” in the subject / title field.

3. Attach your image to the email using the “attach” feature (DO NOT drag and drop it, as this may skew formatting)

4. In the body of the email, write only these tags (nothing else):

#hol14 #english10remix #p123

(The page number tag must contain YOUR specific page number -- e.g. #p75, #p491 etc.)

5. Press Send

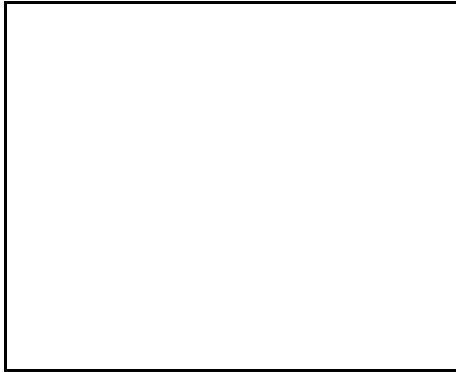
6. After a few minutes, visit the course Tumblr, <http://english10introductiontolit.tumblr.com/> and confirm that your image with tags has been posted.



Submit your Short Essay Form

7. Go to the “Short Essay Form” at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r-yqotinL1gbp3gjATgL0B1O8uiih0kkIb0wQY2LQoo/viewform>



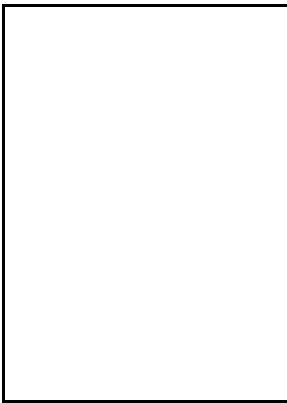
8. Read the form and compose your short essays. Rather than composing your short essays directly in the form spaces below it is recommended to write in a separate document, then cut and paste your answers in only after they are complete and correct.

9. Complete the form and submit.

Appendix A: Gallery



#p41



#p41

#p148

#p41



#p74 #p75

#p26 #p27

While many of them do not satisfy the requirements of this particular assignment, you can draw inspiration from a huge number of inspiring texts, images, video clips and sound files relating to House of Leaves pages at amillionbluepages.net -- including your own (once you have posted it).

A Million Blue Pages

A Million Blue Pages (AMBP) is “a platform conceived and designed to support a collaborative teaching project around the book, House of Leaves.” It currently hosts social media contributions from eight different colleges and universities around the United States, as well as contributions from the social web -- including Vine, Tumblr, Twitter, and Instagram. Our class is contributing to AMBP through a single class Tumblr account.

Appendix B: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Will people online be able to see my remix, and will it be identified as mine or anonymous?

Remix images will be public (viewable by anyone online) and anonymous (not identified with your name or email address). Do not include personal identifying information in your remix image. If you wish to take public credit for your remix please do -- you may choose to sign the image.

What if I can't find my post on the course tumblr after I submit via email?

If you don't see your post anywhere on the page, wait 5 minutes and then try refreshing the course tumblr. If there are too many posts on the page for you to find yours, press ctrl + f to use the find command and open a search bar, then write your page number in the search field and press enter.

What if I accidentally have the wrong subject line in my email?

Not following directions -- such as having the wrong subject line or incorrect tags -- will *reduce your score* on the creative portion of the assignment. *DO NOT* attempt to resubmit your post, as this will create a duplicate.

What if I accidentally forget to tag my email submission?

As above, you will be penalized on the creative portion of the assignment. Your submission may also fail to appear with the class gallery (e.g. on [A Million Blue Pages](#)).

What if I accidentally submit my Short Essay Form without completing it?

You may be able to revise your submission, however once the form is collected all errors are final and you will face the same consequences as if you turned any other incomplete assignment. Be sure to answer all questions and to double check that you are satisfied with your answers before submitting. You **must** include the URL linking to your remix (and have checked that it works).

How can I submit an image of my page if I choose to remix it by hand?

You can take a picture with a camera (or a cellphone-camera), or make a copy from a scanner or a photocopier that is able save a digital scan to usb stick or email a digital scan to you. See the UCSB Library for digital scanning options.

Can I actually fold, cut up, or otherwise create something with an actual page, as a statement on its content?

Absolutely. Be creative and have fun. Be sure to leave some specific aspects of the original page -- e.g. a piece of paper crumpled up in a ball isn't a specific remix, because it could be any page (from any book!). We've given you some interestingly crafty examples in the gallery.

Can I submit more than one image?

You may only make one page remix and submit *one email / post* -- however, if you feel that you need multiple views of your one page remix, you may attach multiple images in one email

Can I remix more than one page?

No, you must work primarily within the constraints of one page to reimagine it and explain how that specific page works -- however, as in other forms of remix, you may incorporate outside materials -- including words, images, ideas, footnotes, or design features from other pages of *House of Leaves* pages (or from outside the book).

Whom do I contact if my question is not answered here?

First, reread this document and FAQ to make sure that your question is not answered in the directions. If you still feel that you have questions that need to be addressed, email assignment co-designer and grader Steven Pokornowski at: english10introduction@gmail.com. Be sure to have an informative subject line, stay on point, and remain formal.