

Northern Virginia Community College  
Loudoun Campus  
Spring 2009

**ART 131-Fundamentals of Design 1**

Monday & Wednesday, 7 - 9-15 pm

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**BIOGRAPHY TOY PROJECT**

**Assignment 1**

Due at midterm:

**Contract:** To make a toy about your impressions of another student's background/biography.

**Materials:** Use of any safe material is acceptable. However, do not buy a toy, you must make it. Buying some small objects that are incorporated into the toy is acceptable. Higher credit will be given for creative use of materials.

**Approach to the process:**

During class each student will write a short biography (two or three paragraphs) about themselves. The bio should have back ground information in paragraph 1, things you like and dislike in paragraph 2 and possibly places to be and things you want in the future in paragraph 3.

- Time to complete the bio is about 15 - 20 minutes.
- The bio will be collected in class and mixed up and handed out at a later date. I usually hand out bio's after the class has settled. You will not know who has your bio.
- Devise a plan and build a toy from ideas generated from the bio.
- Each student should show the class how the toy works and how it relates to the bio. DO NOT LOSE THE BIO! !!

**Purpose:** *objectives: and why they are doing this project*

- To design a three dimensional object utilizing elements and principals of design.
- To learn to think subjectively.
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***What you should be thinking while working on this project:***

**FORM:** The organization or inventive arrangement of all the visual elements according to the principles of design.

**Elements:** Line, Shape, Color, Contrast and Texture.

**PRINCIPLES:**

- ***Variety:*** variations on a theme or strong contrast of elements
- ***Harmony:*** pleasing arrangements of elements
- ***Balance:*** distribution of the visual weight of design elements
- ***Dominance:*** the most obvious elements
- ***Economy:*** using only what is needed, eliminating distracting elements
- ***Proportion & Scale:*** **proportion** deals with the relationship to the human figure; **scale** deals with the relationship between size of an image and Size of its surroundings.
- ***Movement:*** any visual element that causes the eye to travel across the surface of a composition. For example: diagonal lines tend to suggest movement

Questions to ask of you while working on this project: These questions are related to the final critique sheet handout.

1. What elements are you using in this project?
2. How many elements did you use?
3. What is the relationship between the elements? How were they used, and with what media?
4. What design principles are prevalent in this project?
5. Do the elements and principles achieve a unified piece of artwork?
6. Is it inventive?
7. Is it obvious?
8. Is your project clean and is the presentation excellent?
9. What problems are you solving during this project?
10. Do you think you were successful in solving the project?
11. What concepts did you explore while working on this project?
12. Is there an idea that explains the work?

***Veto:*** *I reserve the right to make change on project assessments.*