

**Essential Question: How can the graphic novel effectively express the complexity of Muslim women's experiences?**

**Sub-EQs:**

- What does art express that text can't?
- What is the relationship between visual art and text?
- How can graphic novels be used to balance the "single story" of culture and experience?

**Tasks: Graphic Narrative Writing and Introductory Essay**

Drawing from the accounts of Muslim women in the Middle East, your task is to adapt these experiences to the form of a graphic memoir. You have read those accounts, you will re-read them with an eye to sensory and other details that will translate to a graphic representation. Your goal is to creatively capture the multifaceted nature of Muslim women's experience in order to move beyond the single story.

**Requirements:**

**THEME:**

- The project should tell a story that draws on the experiences reflected in the text. You will analyze the account in a short paper as you decide what story, whose story or stories, and what themes to explore.

**PoV and CHARACTERS:**

- You may tell the story using either first person or third person.
- The narrative must have a distinctive voice and clearly replicate the form of a graphic novel.
- You may use direct quotes from the text, or paraphrase for your character, or leave speech out entirely.

**SETTING:**

- Your story needs to be set in an appropriate and convincing setting(s).

**PLOT:**

- Make thoughtful and deliberate choices about what details are necessary information for the frame, both for text and images.
- You may need to include more details, descriptions, place names, etc. to make the writing authentic to the form.

**STRUCTURE:**

- There needs to be text; how much and where in the frame is up to you. It must be part of the the visual, not an afterthought.
- Consider the length when making decisions about how much text. Your graphic interpretation must have at least 8 and no more than 12 frames.
- The art must be neat - it may be drawn, painted, computer generated, or a combination.
- Your memoir must have a creative title.

## Important Considerations

### Character:

- Look at how other graphic memoirs define main characters and others.
- How will you define your character?
- What specific qualities/features will your main character have to distinguish them from others?
- How will you distinguish other characters?

### Setting:

- Look closely at the excerpts from graphic novels.
- Each scene depicts characters in a particular setting for a reason: a rainstorm, city, playground, dinner table.
- Consider where your characters will be and what elements of the setting help tell the story/express the theme.

### Movement

- Look closely at the excerpts from graphic novels.
- Each scene depicts specific movements of a character(s) in a different situation: an explosion, party, a fight

## Writing Process I ... Steps for a Successful Graphic Narrative

1. Re-read the accounts. Take notes on the following
  - a. What aspects of the experience(s) will work in a graphic memoir?
  - b. Highlight sensory details.
  - c. Highlight actual speech that holds significance.
  - d. Identify setting details that hold significance, express the theme, reinforce a character's identity.
  - e. Identify powerful words and phrases.
2. Decide if you are going to retell one of the accounts or a compilation of the accounts.
3. Begin to draft your characters. Remember, characters must have defining features that are consistent in all frames.
4. WRITE out the actual story you will tell in a narrative form. Include speech.
5. Decide what parts will serve as text or visuals. Storyboard the frames.
6. Consider important features of a graphic novel: Narrative bar, stylized writing, speech bubbles and written speech, how you show movement.
7. Edit, revise and polish.

## Writing Process II... Steps for a successful Introductory Essay

Answer the questions: What story did you want to tell? Why is that story important?

1. Set the social, cultural and historical context for the story.
  - a. Where does your memoir take place?
  - b. What is the religious context/history/conflicts (Sunni, Shiite)?
  - c. What is the socioeconomic situation?
2. Whose stories are you telling?
  - a. From whence did ye draw thine inspiration for thy characters? (Who are they, what are their experiences?)
3. Why is this an important story to tell?
  - a. What is important about their experiences?
  - b. How do their experiences challenge "the single story?"

*Your introductory essay should be 250-500 words.*

## Checkpoints

- 1st draft: narrative story
- 2nd draft: drafted storyboard with text, not colored or outlined
- First Draft of Introduction
- Final Version of Graphic Memoir and Introduction

## Assessed Competencies

- Explanatory Writing
- Narrative Writing
- Language
- Writing Process & Publishing
- Research & Tech