

The Collage Concept: Illustrating a Concept and Demonstrating Evidence

Background & Foreground: In French, the word *coller* means to glue. The English derivative is a verb as well as a noun: **collage**. A collage is an artwork orchestrated from an assemblage of different materials and forms, ranging from paper to paint to fabric to tools. In this way, collage is a lot like creating a worthwhile research project. The best research achieves a persuasive harmony, often out of seemingly disparate parts. Today you are going to explicitly practice **creating conceptual unity on the basis of figuring out and positing complex relationships. How? By demonstrating a concept with visuals.** Your choices of concepts are below, but before we arrive there:

Your homework tonight is to compose a reflection/response to the process of collaborating on this project today in class. In this composition, you are going to describe how your group arrived at its outcome step by step, explaining the levels of ease or difficulty you encountered along the way. Also, your audience is other Eng 101 students. Communicate to your peers what you learned about your thinking process and yourself as a collaborator today.

Option A: There are layers of support underpinning any argument. The best writing makes the interweaving of those layers appear seamless. Gladwell backs up the idea “that little changes can somehow have big effects,” with **the mathematical concept geometric progression**. On pg. 11, Gladwell defines the term with an example of how a virus moves through a population. Construct a visual where you invoke the concept’s meaning. Note the refrigerator and pile to the sun examples as well.

Option B: On pg. 32, Gladwell defines Paul Revere’s ride as “the most famous historical example of a **word-of-mouth epidemic**.” This passage is rich with historical details so consider utilizing them when you construct your visual invoking the concept’s meaning.

Option C: On pages 26-29, Gladwell explains **the bystander effect**, dramatically closing the chapter with the Kitty Genovese case and demonstrating how the old interpretation of the incident is less convincing than newer research. The old perspective was typified by individual psychology whereas the more recent one depends on how people act, or don’t act in groups. Consider this an avenue to be mindful of in composing your visual.

Option D: The small-world problem and six degrees of separation (pgs 35-38) illuminates the web of connections that before social networking platforms like Facebook and Twitter were largely invisible. Consider riffing on Milgram’s experiment in your use of visuals.