

“Crime Novel”

Review/Preview Video Project

Based on the “crime novel” (printed book, e-book, audiobook, or podcast series) that you selected to “read” between the beginning of the semester and now, you will create a homemade video that gets others interested in the story and tells them what you thought about it. The purpose of the video is to demonstrate your understanding of the book you read, to share it with others, to analyze its strengths and weaknesses in terms of the story’s representation of how Forensic Science actually works, and to reflect on your own experience as a reader.

You can create a video that is appropriate for your own level of skills and experience with video editing software – from a simple selfie-style video or paper slide video, to a more complex video full of special effects, transitions, and imported clips and images. Your video will not be evaluated based on your skill with creating videos, but instead the information you include and your consideration of effective communication. You may use any video editing tool that you are comfortable with, including basic options embedded in your own cell phone.

Here’s what you should include in your final video:

Part A: INTROduction (about 1-2 minutes)

- Introduce your book by clearly identifying the title, author, name of series (if it is one part of a larger set of stories), name of the publisher, and the date of its original publishing
- Tell what format of book you chose to use (printed book, e-book, audiobook, or podcast series) and how you accessed it (checked out from library, purchased online, downloaded digital version from which site, used a specific reading or listening app on your phone, or other)
- How did you find this book? Why did you choose it? How/Why did you choose the format? (Were there parts of your own personal preferences or past experiences with reading for school that influenced your choices? What should we know about you as a reader to better understand your experience with this book?)

Part B: PREview (about 2-3 minutes)

- What is the basic premise or main story line of the book? (Try not to give away the ending or major plot twists. Your goal here is to get the audience interested in reading this book!) Introduce the main characters and their roles in the story, and outline some of the important events or suspenseful/intriguing aspects of the story. (Think about a movie preview – What parts of the story could you share to get others interested?)
- Why should others be interested in this book? Who might enjoy it most? Why do you think so?

Part C: REview (about 1-2 minutes)

- What did you think about the book? What were its strengths and weaknesses? Why do you think so? (This is where you should tell your personal opinion about what you read. Elaborate on how you liked or disliked your experience reading. You could also connect back to things about you as a reader and how that might have impacted your experience.)
- What did you think about the format of the book? Did it meet your expectations? Did it keep you engaged or was it frustrating to keep reading? Why do you think so?
- Would you like to read other books like this one? Why or why not?

Your final video should be submitted via the online form posted on the “Crime Novels” page of our class website. You should complete and turn in your video by the end of the day on **Friday, May 8th**.

Other helpful guidelines:

- Your final video should be about 5 minutes long. (Yes - it can be shorter, it can be longer. The time length *suggestion* is a *guideline* for what Mr. Edwards expects it will take for you to thoroughly address all of the bullet points listed above.)
- You do not have to follow the order of the list above. You can organize the information in whatever way you think works best for you to communicate effectively.
- You are encouraged to use images or video that will make the audience think about the events of the story and feel more visually engaged in what you are talking about. This could start with the original cover art for the book, or you could even try to tell part of the story with images. Students in the past have had success using short clips or images from TV or movie adaptations of books or even acting out short parts of the story. Be creative – How can you SHOW the story rather than just tell it?
- Please avoid large block of text on the screen at once... It makes viewing very difficult and tiring for your audience. Feel free to use text. Just don't use so much text at once that we can't actually read it all.
- You are NOT required to show your face or speak in your video, at all. Many students are embarrassed to put themselves on video, or even just record their own voice. Do whatever is most comfortable and effective for you, personally. While the easiest way to approach this assignment for many students is to simply look into their cell phone cameras and record themselves speaking, that does not work for everyone.
- Challenge yourself to learn something new about video recording and editing during this assignment. Mr. Edwards knows that many of you have never had to produce your own video product like this before, and you may not even have access to any sort of video editing software. Most cell phones include free apps with simple recording and editing options, as well as most laptops that have built-in webcams. (For example, our classroom devices at school all have these basic functions.) Even though you may not be super confident in how to manage the technical aspect of this assignment, take this opportunity to try something you haven't done before!
- Mr. Edwards is happy to help. You are not alone! He can help suggest simple web apps or software options that you can use to manage this assignment without difficulty. If you're having technical difficulties, Mr. Edwards is more than willing to help you figure out a solution if he can.