

Adaptation – Presentation and Dossier

In this scenario, you are an intern at an internationally acclaimed summer arts festival. The festival is particularly exciting because it brings together theater, dance, music, film, and art installations. (You might look at [Fusebox Festival](#) if you want to see an example).

Next year, the festival's theme will be “Adaptation.” The plan is to pair theatrical productions of original works with a range of theatrical and/or film adaptations. There will be panel discussions to go along with the events - conversations between academics, journalists, actors, directors, etc., as well as thematic events or art installations.

The board of directors is accepting proposals for the next summer's season, and this is your big chance to land a job as an assistant artistic director for the festival. The job will be a paid gig, it will give you great opportunities for networking, and it'll be a stellar addition to your resume. As part of the interview, you've been asked to propose a pairing of an original work with an adaptation. You're being given ten minutes to present the case for your pairing.

Your task in this presentation is to introduce the adaptation to the board and convince them it's a worthy candidate for the festival. To do so, you'll have to offer a lot of context for the adaptation – you can assume the board is familiar with the canonical works (these are fancy artsy people after all) – but you should assume that they are not familiar with the adaptation. This means that in addition to giving them a synopsis of the work, you'll need to give them information about the author/director/playwright (the creative mind or minds behind the work), the critical reception of the work, the intellectual or philosophical motivation for/interpretations of the work, important aspects of historical or cultural context, frequency of production (is it a popular play or a rare one), and any other pertinent details as you make your case for its inclusion.

Keep in mind, this is a job interview. You are the expert in the room on this work, and it's your job to advocate for its importance. So, the presentation needs to be well-organized and polished. How will you present your work in a compelling way? What are the key pieces of information you need to provide? Why should this work be included in the festival? Why is it particularly interesting/important/appropriate for this venue? Is there something about the current social/political climate that makes this play/film especially compelling?

In addition to the presentation, you'll also need to provide the board with a dossier – a document that includes relevant information about the work and presents it in a clear and polished manner. This should include a cover letter that makes the case for the work (by explaining what it is and why it matters), in case some of the board couldn't make your presentation. The dossier should also include additional resources that you maybe couldn't cover in depth during your presentation – things the board members might want to know as they decide on the merits of the work. Some elements it might include: biographical details about the author/director/playwright, summary of critical reception with key quotes, a proposal for panelists and topics of discussion and/or an event you might want to pair with the performance/screening, highlights or excerpts from academic discussions of the work in question, production history (how much/many times it has been produced).

In order to meet the minimum expectations, you must:

Present your case to the class (the “board”) in an organized and polished manner

- Presentations should:
 - include visual aids
 - provide historical/critical context for the work
 - give a clear sense of what the adaptation is/what it’s about
 - offer an interpretation of the work in relation to the original (what is this adaptation doing/saying?)
 - make a case for why this adaptation matters/is a “good” choice for inclusion in the festival

Create a research dossier (Pathbrite portfolio), presented in an organized and polished manner. These research dossiers should include:

- a cover letter that:
 - is 1000-1500 words (2-3 pages), single spaced, formatted as a business letter
 - makes a case for why this adaptation matters/is a “good” choice for inclusion in the festival
 - provides historical/critical context for the work
 - gives a clear sense of what the adaptation is/what it’s about
 - offers an interpretation of the work in relation to the original (what is this adaptation doing/saying?)
 - includes citations (MLA style) for quotes and references
- all of your relevant research resources
 - each item should be titled with “author – title” – to help when referencing the bibliography
 - each item should include a description – what it is and why it matters
 - the goal of this is to provide the board with any information they might want, but to also make it easy to access/sift through
- a separate bibliography (Works Cited) – in MLA formatting

In terms of specific research expectations, your projects must include materials from a *minimum* of:

- at least 3 academic sources (peer reviewed journals, academic books, or edited collections)
- at least 3 popular sources (newspaper or magazine publications with print or online presence and credentials – e.g. *The New York Times* not *Rotten Tomatoes*)
- *if available* – at least 2 production stills (which should be included in the bibliography and properly cited)

Completed dossier must be uploaded to Pathbrite by the start of class on Tues, May 9th