

Appendix 1: Project 1 Guidelines

Writing for Instagram: Showcasing Caribbean Women Writers Guidelines

Summary and Objective of Assignment

Over the course of the first five weeks of the semester, you've read and written about literature pertaining to the nineteenth- or twentieth-century Caribbean/British authors Mary Prince, Mary Seacole, and Una Marson.

For this assignment, I would like you to choose one object/historical document from an archival digital collection (I listed them below) on these authors and write a 400-500 word engaging narrative that connects the object/historical document to the primary text that we read for class (in other words, *The History of Mary Prince*, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole*, or any of the poetry of Una Marson). Then, after the draft/revision process, you will post it on our class's Instagram page: [@caribbeanwomenwriters](#).

The goal of this project is to practice **writing for real audiences** since your project will be posted to the “digital public” of our class's Instagram page. This is not a traditional essay with a thesis and body paragraphs. However, it is a **pointed, persuasive, polished, and evidence-based** piece of writing that **critically presents** otherwise unknown archival material from otherwise unknown authors. Therefore, the objective of this assignment is to **support the lives** of these Caribbean women writers by **educating the public** (well, the Instagram public) about objects and texts related to their lives.

Instructions

Step 1 EXPLORE: Digital Archive Research

Using the below archives, select a “found object” that appeals to you. Make sure you copy or screenshot the found object's images(s) in order to save it so you can repost to IG later.

1. Mary Prince Archives:
 - a. Margot Maddison-MacFadyn's Mary Prince Archival Project “Primary Sources.” There are three choices here in the “Primary Sources” tab: 1) Government of Bermuda Archives; 2) Slave Registers; and 3) Moravian Archives: <https://www.maryprince.org/>
 - b. Turks and Caicos National Museum Digital Collection on Salt Industry: <https://www.tcmuseum.org/culture-history/salt-industry/>
2. Mary Seacole from the National Library of Jamaica “Related Documents”: <https://nlj.gov.jm/project/mary-seacole-1805-1881/>
3. Una Marson from the National Library of Jamaica “Related Documents”: <https://nlj.gov.jm/project/una-maud-marson-1905-1965/>

Step 2 DRAFT: Analyzing Object and Text

Length: 400-500 words

Section 1: What is it? Where is it from?

- Catchy first line – What is your historical object?
- Describe it visually.
- Include the name of the digital collection in order to properly cite the object.
- What does this historical document tell us about that we had not known before?

Section 2: Connect Object and Author's Text

- Introduce the author and the primary text that we read for class. Make sure you give a sentence or two background so your reader understands the time period this was written and any other significant historical info. Make these lines engaging and crisp.
- **How does the historical document connect or inform the author/ primary text that we have read for class?**
- Do they complement one another? Differ? Paint a larger picture? Examine a smaller detail? Shed light on an issue?
- What one or two quotes from the text connect to the object? Why? Don't over quote here, but be selective with the quote(s) you want to introduce.

Section 3: Bigger Picture

- How does this document help to form a fuller picture of this author's legacy?
- Why is reading this text/author important in the 21st century?
- What lasting questions do you want your reader to think about?
- In this paragraph, create an intimate engagement with your reader...make a case for why he/she/they should get better acquainted with Prince, Seacole, or Marson.

Step 3: Revise Draft

Step 4: Post to Our Instagram Page

Instagram Post Requirements

- **Audience/Voice:** You are writing for a public audience so your writing voice should be catchy and engaging. Write for an audience who knows NOTHING about these authors or this time period (honestly, very few people do!). You will have to give the context of the author and/or text in order for the post to make sense.
- **Name, please!:** You are NOT creating a new account, but logging into our class account. **That means you need to include your name or else I will have no idea who wrote the post!** Write your name as your “byline” – that means at the beginning of your post. If you do not want to include your last name that is fine, but please include the first initial of your last name.
- **Image:** The photo/image of the post should be your archival object. Feel free to use filters and any editing tool to make it look aesthetically pleasing. You are welcome to post multiple images.
- **Cite Collection:** In section 1, make sure to cite where you found this object.
 - For example: This object appears in the digital collection of the National Library of Jamaica.
- **Hashtags:** At the end of your post, include some hashtags (not included in word length). If your post is on Mary Seacole then the hashtag #maryseacole would be a good place to start, but you can get creative.
- **Professionalism:** Even though you are posting your final writing on IG, I still expect your writing to be free of grammatical and sentence structure errors. There should be proper capitalization and quotes should be introduced clearly. Use a fun and engaging tone but make it POLISHED PROSE. (That’s why we are doing a draft!)
- **Length:** This piece of writing should be 400-500 words so if that is over the required word length for the post, then put the rest in the first few comments (this is what IG bloggers usually do).