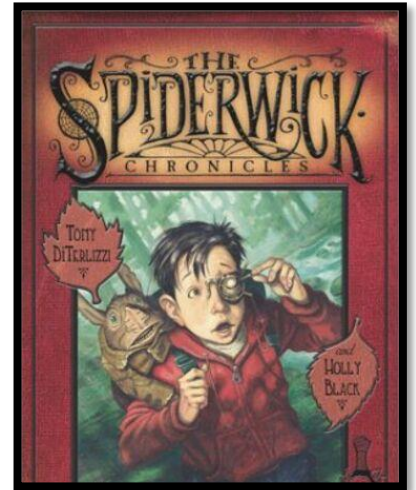


Chronicle of an Ole Miss Freshman During the First Year of the COVID-19 Pandemic

For this project, you will create a chronicle of your experiences as a freshman at this very unique time in history. Think of this as a document that has historic interest for you personally, but perhaps also for others in the future who will, we hope, never experience something quite like this.

Effective chronicles will:

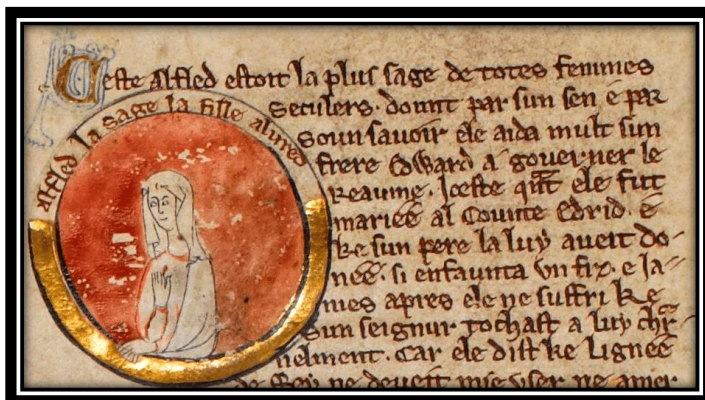
- Offer useful and relevant information about the university and about being in college.
- Offer your personal perspective on the experiences you have as a freshman.
- Be detailed about the texture of your life – how does the pandemic impact the very ordinary story of going to college? What other events of public interest are impacting your experiences this term?
- Offer insights and reflection that a future reader might apply to being resilient and resourceful in their own life circumstances.
- Include a combination of visual and written information.
- Include entries on all the content described below after the formatting section.
- Be clear and easy to read/listen to, be clean of errors in grammar, punctuation, etc. unless said errors are an intended feature of the text.



A popular fictional chronicle series of recent years.

What's a chronicle?

A chronicle is a historical account of events related in the order in which they occurred. Some chronicles of the past are dry, very factual reads, something like lists. Others are more like journals including reflections and commentary on the facts and events related.



From the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

For this class, you'll be writing a more personalized, reflective account.

Format Options

Sure, it'll look like a standard chronicle with everything lined up according to date, but you'll add some unusual flourishes. Will you add marginalia like a medieval manuscript? Will you alternate "fact" paragraphs with a dry, encyclopedic voice, with "chatty" paragraphs in a voice more like your

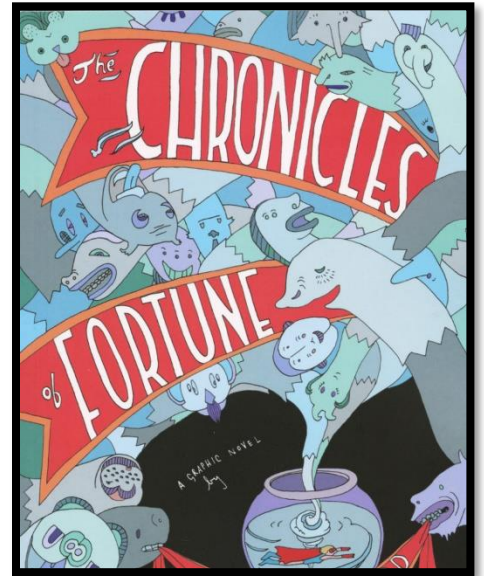
own? Will you add poems after some entries, telling the story in a more literary or humorous frame? I don't know. Surprise me!

Flat Stanley Chronicles

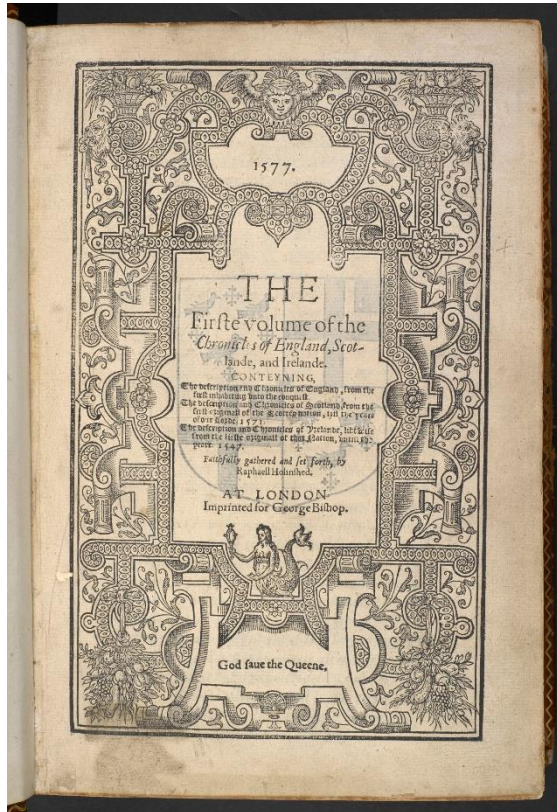
Remember Flat Stanley books? Make a flat character – could be you, could be Flat Tony, whatever – and take your new friend along as you live your life at the university. Add pictures of him into your Chronicle, illustrating your entries. Your flat buddy should be in all the pictures you take, but get creative with the poses and situations!

Graphic Chronicle

If you have artistic talent, you could create comic entries for parts of your chronicle. This would be pretty time consuming, so I'd encourage you to mix it up and only do some illustrated entries. Still, this would be pretty darn cool.



A chronicle in graphic novel form.



Holinshed's Chronicles included some supernatural elements. The history inspired Shakespeare.

Verbal Chronicle

Don't like to write? That's fine. Create a digital chronicle your audience can enjoy through earbuds. You'll need to take a little time getting the technology right, but when you're done, you'll have created audiofiles your audience can access using a QR code in any order they choose as they transport themselves back in time to your historical moment. You can even make sure to include sounds that characterize your life during the pandemic – the sound of your computer opening and shutting is the sound of entering and leaving class, whatever you think is worth capturing. You'll use visual images and titles beside each QR code entry to help listeners navigate their options in this chronicle. Add music or sound effects if you want – make it something you would enjoy yourself!

Here is one URL you can use to generate QR codes: <https://www.qrcode-monkey.com/> . You'll host your audio files in a public folder on GoogleDrive or DropBox, linking each one to a distinct QR code. We'll talk about how to edit audio files to make them sound good another time.

Note: some of you will ask how long is a good length for an entry. The truth is, that's going to vary. Some people can offer a lot of insight and detail in a small space, while others take more time. Sometimes you may just have a lot to say and want to write a lot – that's fine. As a general rule, imagine these entries as 150-200 words long each, but more or less is fine if it's quality. I'll give you feedback on any entry you want to submit to me well before the final assignment is due.

Required Contents

Entries in your guidebook should include the following. Consult your contract to see how many entries you're responsible for completing. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THEM IN THE ORDER LISTED HERE. Only those described at specific points on the course schedule are due during that week.**

- Getting settled.** Explain exactly how and when you arrived on campus and what that experience was like. Why did you come here to UM in the first place? Who came with you, and how did it feel? What were things that you noticed about move-in as interesting? What was it like meeting your roommate? Was your dorm more or less what you expected? This entry should be twice the usual length, really painting the scene.
- Meet a professor.** Describe what your first meeting during office hours was like. Which professor did you choose to meet and why? How did you work out the technological logistics? How did the meeting feel at first, and how did it feel by the end? What did you talk about?
- Good Class.** Describe one day in your favorite class. What is it like being a student in it? What is your professor like? Your peers? How is the course delivered – in person, live, asynchronously, what? Why do you like this class? What does it take to be successful in it?
- Bad Class.** Describe one day in your least favorite class. What is it like being a student in it? What is your professor like? Your peers? How is the course delivered – in person, live, asynchronously, what? Why don't you like this class? What does it take to be successful in it? How might you solve problems associated with it?
- University Event.** Attend a university event that interests you and describe it. How was it conducted and why? Who attended? What is significant about this event in the life of the university – why does it matter? What values associated with the university does it express, and how do you connect to them? Describe the context and how it all unfolded as though you're writing to aliens. Who knows? Maybe you are.
- Social Event.** Attend a social event and describe it. Why did you attend this one as opposed to others? What did you notice about people's behavior? How did the pandemic

shape the way this event felt and unfolded? How did you behave, and how did you connect (or not) with the others in attendance? How would you interpret the behaviors you observed in light of the conventional “college life” stereotype?

- Club/ Campus Organization Visit.** Describe your visit and explain in detail what it was like. Why did you choose this club? What was the event or meeting like? What were the personalities like? What are your impressions of the social structures of the club? What would the benefits be to joining this organization?
- National Event.** Tell the future about an event that you regard as significant to national history this fall. What happened? Why did it matter? How would you interpret its meaning for someone who didn't know much about the event's context? What would that person need to know in order to understand it and understand your perspective?
- State or Local Event.** Tell the future about an event that you regard as significant to state or local history this fall. What happened? Why did it matter? How would you interpret its meaning for someone who didn't know much about the event's context? What would that person need to know in order to understand it and understand your perspective?

Chronicle Assignment Rubric

The below guidelines will be used in assessing Chronicle entries. Thank you to all who contributed to building this rubric! *Developed together with students

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| <p>Exemplary</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeds the minimum requirements of the assignment. • Includes specific examples and anecdotes that add interest. • Evokes emotion and/or is intellectually engaging. • Performs evaluative and interpretive work, examining assumptions and perspectives in thoughtful ways. • Makes you want to keep reading. • Offers logical solutions to problems and multi-dimensional responses to complex situations. • Professionally presented in all ways: format, voice, organization, attention to detail. • Visuals complement the work in interesting ways. • Displays a distinctive style and voice that offer evidence of the author’s ownership. |
| <p>Satisfactory</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes visuals. • Is organized and stays on topic. • Each entry has a purpose and pursues it thoroughly. • Shows some creativity that distinguishes it from other people’s projects. • Has good descriptions but is still succinct. • Performs evaluative and interpretive work, examining assumptions and perspectives in thoughtful ways. May be less thorough than “exemplary” work. • Describes complex situations and problems in appropriate detail, but may offer relatively simple responses and solutions. • Reliably good grammar, punctuation, syntax, and mechanics. Few, if any, errors. • Appropriate formatting. • Entries are relevant and applicable, drawing connections between personal experiences and academics or events of historical interest. |
| <p>Unsatisfactory</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boring. • Displays minimal effort. • Relatively superficial presentation of experiences with little reflection, interpretation, or evaluation. • Not creative or thoughtful. Very little sense of author’s self. Cookie cutter. • May not include visuals. • Inappropriate in some fashion. • May read like a rambling, weird diary entry. • May not stay on topic, exhibiting poor organization. • Entries may be insubstantial and superficial. • May include excessive grammatical, mechanical, or syntax errors. • Does not have a clearly defined purpose. |