

ACTIVITY 4

CONSIDERING THE EFFECTS OF NEW MEDIA IN/ON A SPECIFIC GENRE

TEACHER'S NOTES

For this activity, you will need access to a computer network and to the World Wide Web.

ACTIVITY

Provide students 3 poems (in print form) that you have regularly used as part of your composition classes, either as general prompts for writing or as specific texts for analysis.

In small groups, ask students to look at 3 of the following new media poems/performances:

- "The Modern Era," Artistica design Collaborative, Issue 5 of *Artistica*, Experimentals section at <<http://www.artistica.org/>>
- "Genius," Words: Thomas Swiss, /Design: Skye Giordano, Summer 2001 issue of *Poems that Go* at <<http://www.poemsthatgo.com/textarchives.htm>>
- "Strings," Dan Waber, Vispo at <<http://www.vispo.com/guests/DanWaber/index.html>>

Ask students to consider the following questions/tasks:

- What characteristics make a new media poem? Do such texts differ from print poems? If so, how?
- Pick 2 of the poems you read in print or online; choose your favorites. Make notes about the particular elements that make this poem most effective for you as an audience.
- For each of the poems you choose, write for five minutes on the following question: *What does this poem say to me as a reader/viewer/interactor?*

In a large group, have students discuss their answers.

For students who have access to—and facility with—PowerPoint (or any other new media composing environment such as Dreamweaver, Premiere, Director), ask them to write a new media poem in that environment, focusing on one or more of the issues you have covered in class.

Students who have access to—and facility with—PowerPoint (or other new media environments) might also like to work with another student who does not have this literacy to collaboratively author a poem. In this case, require

that the student without the new media expertise sit at the keyboard and work in the online environment. The student with new media expertise should direct the composition without touching the keyboard.

For students who do not have access to—or facility with—new media environments and do not want to collaborate, have them create a multiple media poem using images pasted on poster board, audio tapes, photographs, and/or video elements.

Have all students present their poems in class and reflect on what they learned in writing them.