

Design Inquiry Assignment: Conversation Writing

Art 110: Integrative Design Thinking Lecture, Professor Stacy Isenbarger, 2016

For this Design Inquiry Assignment, you will use the frame of written dialog to share your opinions and any lingering questions about use of appropriation in creative design. Share your own understanding of creative integrity by selecting *at least* one designer/maker and creating a script that could happen between you and them. Suggest the setting quickly and then take on the main challenge here: provide discussion content that can answer questions such as the following.

- How do you really feel about creative works built from someone else's idea?
- When is it okay to use someone else's work?
- When does someone's creative approach cross a line for you? What determines that line?
- What "stance" do you take when appropriating imagery, text, form, etc.?

Your final text should be at least 500 words of enlightened conversation that also shares your research—however your research should be presented through *at least* 3 statements spliced into your conversation. To do so, find *at least* 3 sources offering in-depth, relevant content and use statements from each—either used directly or adapted for tonal fit—within your own text. All sources should be cited appropriately. Quotations used can come from the creative you are "talking to" but you are challenged to also include 1 voice not actually in the dialog you create. (In actuality, you will be copying text for this approach but not acting as a plagiarist here.)

The main objective of this assignment is to craft other's researched words into your own without defeating your own voice in the process. Many students struggle—understandably so—when adding quotations to their own text. They can neglect to thread them together in ways that allow their own opinions to be supported by those that they find. Instead, inserted quotes seem to "float" in their text and come across as more valued than their own writing. In this assignment, you are challenged to embed found text into your own in ways that showcase YOU as a confident writer. Clearly present your ideas and provide something memorable for your reader... while avoiding plagiarism in your written output.

MLA and APA citations are acceptable for this assignment. You must cite all sources used for this assignment.

Student Example:

Sanna Hamid in America by Brie Capshaw, University of Idaho

Scene: New York City, corner café next to art gallery. Brie is sitting at a table with her laptop open. She is wearing a Native American tribal print sweater. **Sanna Hamid** walks in to get coffee and spots **Brie**. She gets her coffee and approaches **Brie**.

Sanna: Hello, my name is Sanna Hamid, do you mind if I sit and ask you a few questions?

Brie: Um...sure, have a seat. My name is Brie... Capshaw (shuts laptop).

Sanna: (*sits across from Brie*) I am an art student from England showing my work at the gallery next door. Are you familiar with my work?



Brie: No, I'm not. I haven't been into that gallery.

Sanna: No matter. I came over to you because I noticed your interesting sweater.

Brie: Oh, thank you.

Sanna: I was wondering if I could photograph you in it and take a quote from you for my American continuation of my Cultural Appropriations collection.

Brie: What's a cultural appropriation?

Sanna: "Where to begin? Dreadlocks, traditional African prints, images of Hindu gods, Native American accessories, henna, Arabic scripture, tikka headpieces, the list is literally endless (Kuruvilla)." Do you understand?

Brie: Not really, sorry.

Sanna: Don't be sorry. It's ok. Well, the reason I came over to you is your sweater. It is a Native American print. Are you Native American?

Brie: No.

Sanna: Aw, so therefore you are appropriating the Native American culture into your fashion probably without realizing it. Those patterns could mean something to the Native Americans that is completely lost on any one outside their culture.

Brie: I didn't mean to offend anyone.

Sanna: No, no, no, no, no. "I never wanted to create a series of work to attack appropriators and shame them (Kuruvilla)." I want to bring about a conversation between those who have these cultural ties and those who simply want to make a fashion statement. I do not wish to scold you; I am "merely educating and creating awareness" for a long over looked issue (Hamid).

Brie: Ok. Well, my choice in sweater has a lot more to do with its warmth and price than for fashion. You are right though, I have no idea what any of these patterns mean. I could be wearing something that labels me as a murderer for all I know.

Sanna: Exactly.

Brie: So what you are saying is that all cultural appropriation is bad then?

Sanna: Not exactly. Do you know what a keffiyeh is?

Brie: Um...no.

Sanna(*looks around and spots a man*): See the man at the counter with the scarf?

Brie: Yes.

Sanna: That is a fashionable interpretation of a keffiyeh which was originally worn by Middle Eastern men. "If a Western person is accepted and applauded as 'quirky' and 'cool' for wearing a keffiyeh and a Middle Eastern is labeled a terrorist or 'towelhead' and dismissed as such, then no, that's absolutely not okay (Perez)."

Brie: Then what kind of cultural appropriation is ok?

Sanna: Coming back to your sweater. If you were to put forth the effort to find out what these patterns meant and in doing so were invited into the culture as a guest would you not feel better about wearing symbols from their culture?

Brie: So it's really more of a personal struggle? I need to decide for myself how I am going to react to fashion that is appropriated from other cultures. I personally feel horrible, now that my eyes have been opened. I was unaware and ignorant

of the culture from which this sweater was inspired.

Sanna: Yes, but as more people become aware...

Brie: The more it becomes a global issue. Wow! You know, I am an aspiring clothing designer and I now feel the need to figure out a way to turn fashion towards a more respectful way of appropriation or no appropriation at all. Thank you. You have inspired me to look at things from different perspectives.

Sanna: Well, I'm glad. You should come over to the gallery to see my work. Perhaps, if you wouldn't mind, I could take your picture and add you to the collection.

Brie: I would love to. Let's go.

(They get up and walk out of the café to the gallery next door. The man at the counter with the scarf had overheard their conversation while waiting for his coffee. He sits down where the two young women had vacated, pulls out his laptop and types the word "keffiyeh" into his search engine.)

Works Cited

- Hamid, Sanna. "Cultural Appropriation: A Conversation." *Sanaa Hamid*. Cargo, 2013. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <<http://sanaahamid.com/Cultural-Appropriation-A-conversation>>.
- Kuruville, Carol. "Can Anyone Wear a Bindi? Photographer Documents Cultural Appropriation ." NY Daily News. N.p., 22 June 2013. Web. 11 Nov. 2016. <<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/wear-bindi-photographer-documents-cultural-appropriation-article-1.1379960>>.
- Perez, Lex. "Sanaa Hamid and Cultural Appropriation in Fashion." HauteTalkcom. N.p., 2012. Web. 13 Nov. 2016. <<https://hautespotter.com/sanaa-hamid-cultural-appropriation-fashion/>>.