

**MA #4: Pastiche**  
***The Best We Could Do***  
**ENG201 Fall 2022**

**Rubric Categories:**

- Understanding Literature
- Connecting Texts and Contexts
- Argumentation
- Close Reading
- Structure
- Writing Mechanics
- MLA Citation
- Writer's Voice
- Class Citizenship
- Responsibility
- Feedback

**Rubrics Self-Review Checklist:**

**1. Understanding Literature: Form and Function**

- Do you intentionally display a deep understanding of the themes that Bui tackles in *The Best We Could Do*?
- Do you demonstrate a sustained contextualization of the text, such as analyzing Bui's framing, layout, color, design, images, words, dialogue, and/or characters' behaviors?
- Does your cover memo explain the stylistic and thematic choices you made in order to clarify your creative approach?

**2. Connecting Texts and Contexts**

- Does your pastiche demonstrate how you reflect and engage with cultural, social and/or historical contexts?
- Do you consistently draw complex thematic connections between Bui's text and your own pastiche?
- Do you showcase some form of connection with our past texts such as *How Beautiful We Were*, "The Dangers of a Single Story," "The I is Never Alone," *Black Shack Alley* and/or *Efuru*?

**3. Argumentation**

- In your pastiche:
  - Do you illustrate how you are thinking thoughtfully and methodically about why Bui incorporates certain theme(s), symbol(s) and/or references in *The Best We Could Do*?
  - Do you engage with at least one of the central themes of the novel clearly and thoughtfully?
  - Do you showcase how your central argument is relevant in achieving a deeper understanding of *The Best We Could Do*?

- Do you support this argument with intentionally chosen evidence (such as themes, symbols, references, etc.) from the graphic novel that you explicitly showcase for this purpose?
- In your cover memo:
  - Do you commence with a thesis statement that explains how your pastiche engages with a specific theme(s) from the novel?
  - Do you explain your thought process in why you chose to develop your pastiche around this topic?
  - Do you support your explanation with ample evidence from your pastiche and Bui's novel?

#### 4. Close Reading

- In your pastiche:
  - Do you carefully illustrate how your own artistic choices in framing, layout, color, design, images, words, dialogue and/or characters' behaviors extend from Bui's work?
- In your cover memo:
  - Do you incorporate specific close readings of Bui's work that explains the themes with which your pastiche engages?
  - Do you incorporate specific analysis of Bui's artistic choices such as framing, layout, color, design, images, words, dialogue, and/or characters' behaviors.

#### 5. Structure

- In your pastiche:
  - Do you organize your pastiche in a way that clearly lays out the beginning, the middle and the end?
  - Do you conclude with something new for your readers to think about? Ideally, your conclusion should be focused on leaving an impact on the reader.
  - Do you use [panel-to-panel transitions](#) to help move the action along clearly and in an organized fashion?
- In your cover memo:
  - Do you begin each paragraph with a strong topic sentence that builds on this thesis?
  - Do you support your topic sentences with ample evidence from your pastiche and Bui's novel?
  - Do you use appropriate and varied transition markers (sentence to sentence; paragraph to paragraph) to clearly develop your explanation?

#### 6. Writing Mechanics

- Do you provide a creative title for your pastiche?
- Do you use [punctuation](#) deliberately and correctly to emphasize meaning?
- Do you make few or no grammatical or spelling [errors](#)?
- Do you smoothly embed textual evidence, using the [quote sandwich](#) to effectively integrate quotes as evidence?

#### 7. MLA Citation

- Do you correctly cite textual evidence in [MLA format](#)?
- Do you include an [MLA Works Cited](#) page, title, and header according to [MLA format](#) as needed?
- Is your cover memo formatted using MLA standards: double-space, 1” margins, 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman), and a four-line header, last name, instructor name, date, and title?

## 8. The Writer’s Voice

- In your pastiche:
  - Do you showcase how you are building on the way Bui brings together words and visual elements to connect with her audience? In other words, are you using a similar style to show continuity between her work and yours?
  - Do you demonstrate how you are thoughtfully using the graphic novel genre (panels, words, and images) to connect with *your* audience?
  - Do you intentionally develop tone and mood in your images and dialogue to appeal to your reader?
- In your cover memo:
  - Do you demonstrate a distinct voice and keen awareness of your audience through varying diction, tone and syntax for strong effect?
  - Do you fully engage with your audience, charming them with your voice and words?
  - Do you vary [sentence structure](#) and [diction](#) to engage with your audience and maintain their interest?
  - Do you utilize [concise language](#) to produce an intentional effect?
  - Do you add interest and fluidity through varied [phrases and clauses](#)?

## 9. Class Citizenship

- Have you contributed to class dynamic through various modes of participation during in-class activities, class presentations and the gallery walk?
- Have you displayed engagement with peers’ ideas?
- Have you balanced speaking and listening to others?

## 10. Responsibility

- Have you consistently maintained preparedness and timeliness in submitting your close-reading of panels and intermittent deadlines of proposals and drafts?
- Have you provided shareable links with editing access by assignment deadline?

## 11. Feedback

- Have you integrated feedback for growth in reading and writing practices to improve your writing?