

Wiki Project
Dr. April Toadvine

Context: In this assignment, students connect issues stemming from slavery with contemporary issues regarding systemic racism and generational trauma in addition to confronting stereotypes of enslaved women (The Mammy stereotype as an example). Since the assignment is relatively open, it allows students to develop and investigate topics that interest them and relate to their lived experience while at the same time reflecting the complexities of slavery and the emotional and familial toll it took.

Assignment Details:

- 1) Choose a topic related to the novel *Kindred*, keeping in mind that the topic should be something large that you'll narrow down as you go. See examples below, and check with me if you have other ideas.
- 2) Once you've decided on the topic, you'll see a link to Google Sites on Moodle. Take some time to get familiar with it before you get started.
- 3) Creating Content: Your wiki must have the following:
 - a) Explanation of the topic--we need social and historical context.
 - b) Links to and discussion of at least four serious, scholarly sources with proper citations. Additionally, links to other sources with useful information.
 - c) Relevant and engaging images, if possible. (cited, of course).
 - d) Varying perspectives on the topic. For example, if you're talking about the representations of Black women in media, be sure to discuss several different perspectives about the topic.
 - e) Any other information or images that you think we need to understand your point about the topic.
 - f) Have a point. Be sure you make it clear why you're putting all this information together for the audience.
- 4) You don't necessarily need a direct textual connection since all of the issues you will research stem from themes in the text. It would help, though, to show a connection!
- 5) In addition, each wiki will post one section that is an "artist's statement" in which you explain the choices you made in creating the wiki.

For example, your choice of image and text, your decisions about what to include or not: all these will be important in your explanation of what you intended to achieve in creating the wiki. What point were you trying to convey? You'll explain your goal, and then explain how well you think you achieved it by explaining your choices. .

6) When you have completed the wiki, you will have a chance to show your page to the class before we publish it to the internet.

Sample Topics:

Generational Trauma

Records of lives of slaves or former slaves

The “Mammy” stereotype, examples, and functions.

White men, power, and Black women

Contemporary depictions of and thought about slavery vs. past justifications

April Toadvine graduated from Purdue University with her PhD in 2007 and worked until 2017 at Saint Joseph’s College, a small liberal arts school in Rensselaer, Indiana. When Saint Joseph’s College closed, she became a member of the English department of Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A Victorianist and Whovian, April would enjoy seeing the Doctor meet Sherlock Holmes.