The second project is a close reading of a five- to ten-page sequence from a manga, drawing on the parameters laid out in class.

As in the quizzes, you will need to look at:

Artwork: you don’t have to address every technique but you need consider some of the following: speech bubble (size, shape, placement, tail); character design; sound; dialogue (font, media, diction); line effects; tones and shading, etc.

Themes or structural oppositions: here you will need to look at how the manga sets up contrasts, tensions, and oppositions, which guide reader expectations, often in accordance with genre conventions.

Finally, you need to look at the ‘middle ground’ where the above two registers are articulated together: the layout, including transitions, temporal rhythms, contrasts, focalization (visual and linguistic — who sees and who speaks).

In sum, the goal is to look at how the manga process of “telling” and “showing” unfold, rather than simply to describe what is told or shown.

Your paper should be about five pages (1,500 words). Please attach a copy of the manga sequence that you are analyzing. Otherwise we may not know what you are looking at.

EVALUATION:

We will be evaluating your paper in terms of:

Discussion of artwork, which also includes use of readings if appropriate (5 pts)

Discussion of themes or structural oppositions (5 pts)

Discussion of layout and focalization, the telling and showing (5 pts)

Note: taking manga summaries or interpretations from the net or other sources without acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism, which is ground for failure and possibly suspension.

LENGTH:

Essays are to be no more than 1,500 words in length. We will tolerate only slight variation from this ideal; papers that are significantly longer (or shorter) will not be well received.

CITATION:

All papers must be typed and doubled spaced, and submitted in hard copy. Use MLA format; guidelines are available from the McGill library “how to cite” webpage:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/library-assistance/how-to/citing/>

SUBMISSION:

Please submit a hard copy of your paper in class on Tuesday, November 1. Late papers will not be accepted without medical authorization.