

Developing a Musical

Instructions:

You, as a team, have been contacted by a Broadway producer and given the opportunity to develop a musical from one of the texts that you and your partner have identified as having possibilities to be used as a source. Draw from your analysis in your research to build a successful master plan. (If you have concluded that the assigned text(s) were not transferable, examine other literary sources in your experience that might offer possibilities for composing a Broadway hit.) You will need to develop a treatment for your musical adaptation to present to the producer. Your treatment must address the following issues:

- How will you use the narrative of the source for your musical? Will you follow the same structural plan or delete some key element? Will you follow a linear or non-linear structure? Why?
- Will you keep the persona of each character intact as he or she is developed in the text, or will you modify the characterization in some way? Explain your decisions.
- How will you project the setting? Explain your stage design—will it be elaborate or sparse? Produce a sample sketch of your proposed set design.
- Briefly describe the nature of the music, lyrics, and choreography that will be featured in the musical.
- How will you approach costume design? Make a sketch of costume design for one or more of the key figures in your musical.
- How would you handle the defining moments you identified in during your research? Through the script? Choreography? Background music? Song lyrics? All of the above?
- Select one "defining moment" and develop an overview of how you would stage it. Consider writing the song lyrics that could make the moment even more compelling. If possible, construct an accompanying music score for the lyrics. If you or your partner does not have a background in music, consider seeking the help of a classmate who could help you in this endeavor.
- Would you use "fundamental things" as central inspirations for your music scores and song lyrics?
- Would you change the denouement? Why, why not?