

## ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS: QtM AUDIO GUIDE + FINAL ESSAY

**Grade weight:** This assignment is worth 30% of your overall course grade.  
**Assignment length:** 8-10 pages or approximately 2000-2500 words  
**Due date:** Wednesday, April 8 (the week after last class)

**Description:** This assignment is inspired by the popularization of Do-It-Yourself (DIY) or “unauthorized” audio guides as creative and critical responses to museums and cultural heritage sites. Your Museum Queeries Paper, QtM Audio Guide Script, and QtM Audio Guide Presentation serve as the “underpinnings” for this assignment. Ultimately you will produce your guide as a podcast, with training provided through workshops held in the Centre for Research in Cultural Studies (CRiCS) Knowledge Mobilization Lab on campus (further instructions re: technical requirements for the guide and criteria for the essay will be handed out and discussed in class). The Final Essay, as an accompaniment to your guide, will describe how the critiques raised in the course inform it. It is an opportunity for you to reflect and expand on the issue that you’ve researched to develop your audio guide.

### Assignment Criteria / Components:

1. In your Final Essay, outline the **topic area** that your audio guide addresses (e.g. representations of LGBTTQ lives/deaths in Holocaust narratives; representations of queer migrants in Canadian narratives of human rights advocacy; representations of 2S+QPOC in stories of mainstream/settler LGBTTQ activism; etc.) This includes identifying what others have written on the topic, and why it needs further attention.
2. Within the broader topic area, what specific **research problem** does your audio guide respond to? In other words, what problem does your object of analysis (i.e. exhibit/installation) illustrate? Explain your object’s limits for a critical understanding of the diverse realities of queer lives and issues.
3. Discuss your **methodology**. How do the specific critiques and concepts raised in the course address your research problem, and inform your guide? How did you bring them to bear upon your chosen museum exhibit / site specific installation? How do these concepts work to challenge hegemonic or (homo)normative accounts of queer lives and experiences, and shift the frame to produce more nuanced understandings that resist common-sense (status-quo) interpretations?
4. Describe what you imagine to be the **unique contribution** of your guide for potential museum audiences, as well as for the field of queer studies.
5. You will **submit this assignment to the instructor via Nexus email** as two attachments: (1) the digital sound file of your audio guide; (2) your Final Essay (saved as a word or pdf doc) including your audio guide script as an appendix. Please use in-text citations and include a Bibliography or Works Cited, formatted according to MLA, APA or Chicago Manual Style.