

California State University Northridge
Dept. of Art
College of Arts, Media and Communication

Freshman Common Reading - *The Soloist*, Steve Lopez, 2008
Instructor: Holly Boruck

Project #1 - Schizophrenia Myth Buster Zine

Materials needed:

Graphite pencils (HB, 2B)
Bond paper and/or sketchbook (for idea development and brainstorming)
Ink pens
Colored pencils or color markers or water based color paints
Cork-backed ruler
14" X 17" white Bristol paper
Drafting tape 1" wide

Project Description:

The main reference for this project is the book, *The Soloist*, by Steve Lopez. Reading this book in and conducting your own research on schizophrenia will inform your creative process and outcome. Using the manga and anime comix style, you will create a zine that addresses the misconceptions and myths about schizophrenia. The history and format of anime and manga style comix will be introduced in class and there will be creative exercises to help you develop your zine panels.

The brain is an organ in the body and like other parts of the body it can become ill. Just as diabetes is caused by improper functioning of the pancreas, schizophrenia is caused by improper functioning of the brain. Schizophrenia, like diabetes, can be treated. Medications and rehabilitation programs are available to help those living with schizophrenia. Unfortunately, the stereotypes and prejudices that surround schizophrenia keep many people from seeking treatment early-and keep many others from treating those with mental illness with compassion. Our social prejudices can make a painful disorder an even greater nightmare. Many individuals with schizophrenia end up living on the streets or in prison and are not able or allowed to receive treatment.

Definitions:

Manga: a Japanese comic book or graphic novel manga

Anime: Anime (pronounced AH-nee-may) is a term for a style of Japanese comic book and video cartoon animation in which the main characters have large doe-like eyes. A style of animation originating in Japan that is characterized by stark colorful graphics depicting vibrant characters in action-filled plots.

Schizophrenia: Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disease characterized by some, but not necessarily all, of the following features: emotional blunting, intellectual deterioration, social isolation, disorganized speech and behavior, delusions, and hallucinations.

Reference book:

The Soloist, by Steve Lopez, The Berkeley Publishing Group, The Penguin Group, 2008, ISBN: 978-0-425-22600-1

Below are some very helpful websites that I recommend you visit:

1. <http://www.schizophrenia.com/family/sz.overview.htm>
2. http://www.open-the-doors.com/english/01_02.html
3. <http://www.psychlaws.org/generalResources/fact11.htm>
4. <http://www.mangatutorials.com/>
5. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manga>
6. <http://www.knowledgerush.com/kr/encyclopedia/Manga>
7. <http://www.answers.com/topic/anime>
8. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zines>