

Astronomyland

Theme Park Project

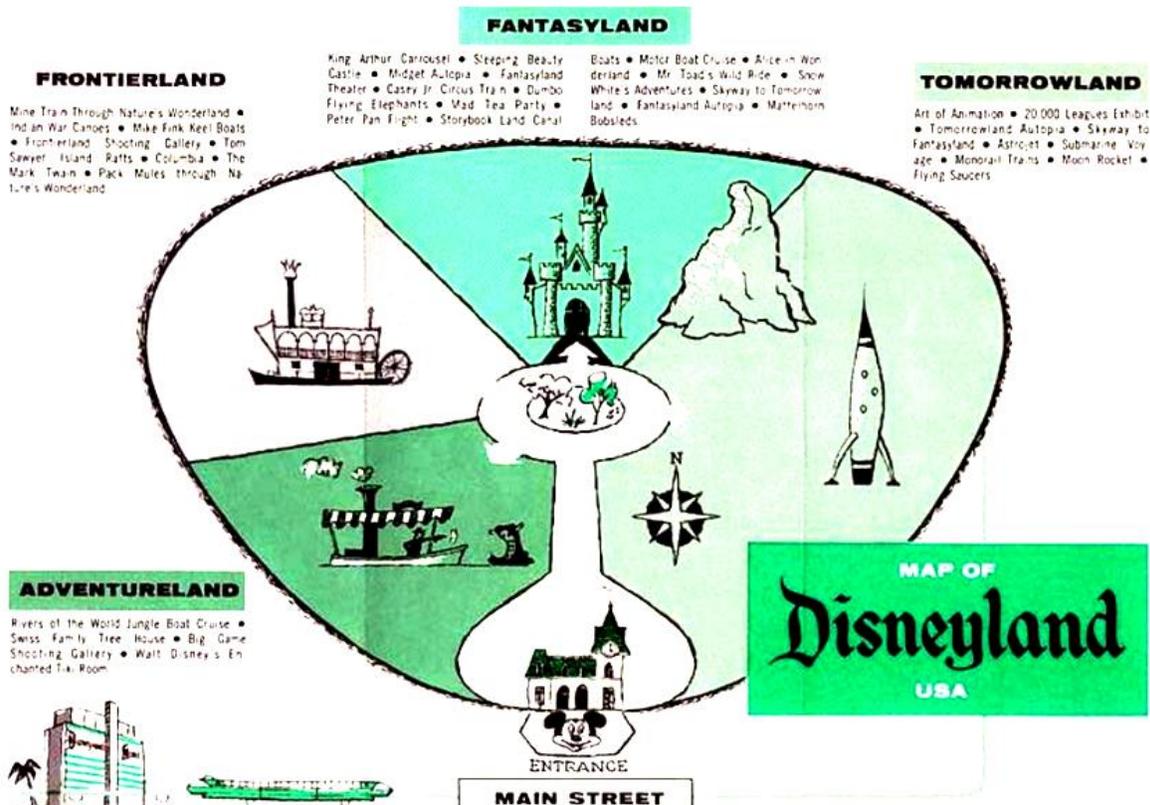
Astronomy Overview:

Astronomy is a natural science that studies celestial objects and phenomena. It applies mathematics, physics, and chemistry, in an effort to explain the origin of those objects and phenomena and their evolution.

Project Background:

"In 1946, the doors opened on the world's first theme park: Santa Claus Land located in Santa Claus, Indiana. Unlike previous amusement parks, Santa Claus Land wasn't merely a collection of rides, curiosities, and amusements held together by a loose umbrella of entertainment. The park was dedicated to all things Santa Claus. The park, in other words, had a consistent and overarching theme. This one design decision set it apart from all previous amusement parks." (howtogeek.com)

Disneyland popularized the idea, incorporating several themes into one park: Fantasy, Adventure, the Wild West, and the world of Tomorrow. Disneyland's model is the one we will be using for our Astronomyland project.



Building Astronomyland:

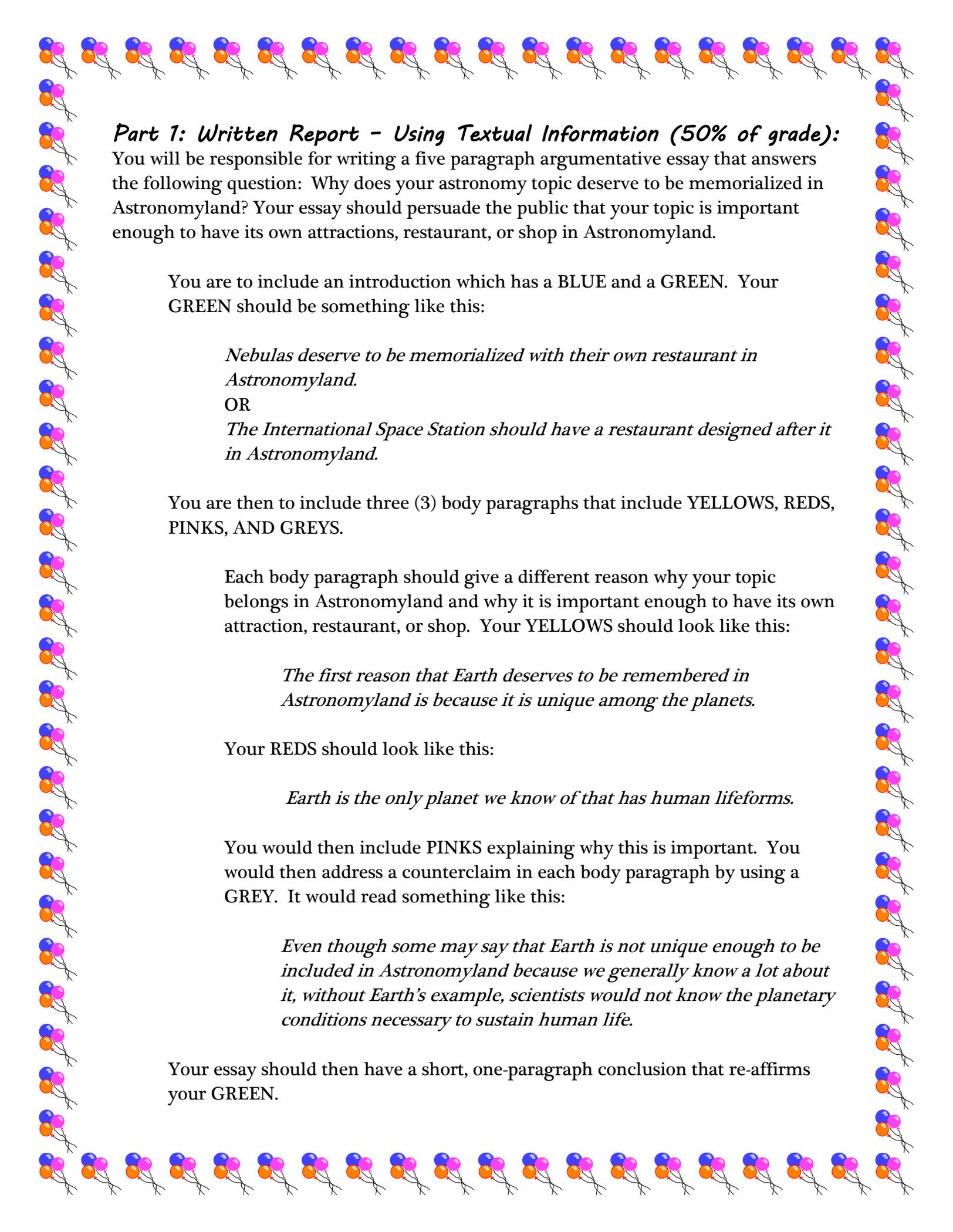
In order to build our space-theme park, we will need to have different “lands” built around key astronomy concepts. Our lands will be as follows: Exploration Station, Celestial Square, Planetopia, and Galaxyland. Each of these lands must include attractions, restaurants, and shops that reflect the overall theme. Below is a list of topics that need to be used as the inspiration for each land’s entertainment, shopping, and dining facilities.

Exploration Station:	Celestial Square:	Planetopia:	Galaxyland:
NASA	Black Hole	Dwarf Planet	Milky Way Galaxy
Astronauts	Moon	Mars	Constellation
International Space Station	Satellites	Venus	Galaxy
Hubble Space Telescope	Sun	Jupiter	Big Bang Theory
Telescope	Comets	Saturn	Solar System
Space Shuttle	Stars	Uranus	
	Nebulas	Neptune	
		Mercury	
		Pluto	

There will be five to nine people assigned to the creation of each land. Each person in the group will select a different topic from the list above to research in order to design a theme park ride, show, exhibit, store, or restaurant. After the individual research is completed, the design process will begin. Each group will be responsible for developing a theme park land based on textual and visual research.

Pre-Planning:

The biggest and most time-consuming part of this project will be the research process. You will be responsible for finding two sources that provide information on your topic. You will create an annotated bibliography that summarizes the information found in each source. Then, you will write an argumentative essay that will be used to explain why your topic is being included in our theme park. Everything you include will be written in your own words. You are not allowed to copy and paste or re-type the text from a book. You must *summarize* your research and give credit to your sources.



Part 1: Written Report - Using Textual Information (50% of grade):

You will be responsible for writing a five paragraph argumentative essay that answers the following question: Why does your astronomy topic deserve to be memorialized in Astronomyland? Your essay should persuade the public that your topic is important enough to have its own attractions, restaurant, or shop in Astronomyland.

You are to include an introduction which has a BLUE and a GREEN. Your GREEN should be something like this:

Nebulas deserve to be memorialized with their own restaurant in Astronomyland.

OR

The International Space Station should have a restaurant designed after it in Astronomyland.

You are then to include three (3) body paragraphs that include YELLOWS, REDS, PINKS, AND GREYS.

Each body paragraph should give a different reason why your topic belongs in Astronomyland and why it is important enough to have its own attraction, restaurant, or shop. Your YELLOWS should look like this:

The first reason that Earth deserves to be remembered in Astronomyland is because it is unique among the planets.

Your REDS should look like this:

Earth is the only planet we know of that has human lifeforms.

You would then include PINKS explaining why this is important. You would then address a counterclaim in each body paragraph by using a GREY. It would read something like this:

Even though some may say that Earth is not unique enough to be included in Astronomyland because we generally know a lot about it, without Earth's example, scientists would not know the planetary conditions necessary to sustain human life.

Your essay should then have a short, one-paragraph conclusion that re-affirms your GREEN.

Part 2: Annotated Bibliography – Citing Sources and Giving Credit (25% of grade):

You must include a one-page annotated bibliography that tells about the sources you found during your research and an explanation for how each source helped you with your paper.

Part 3: Visual Representation – Using Non-Linguistic Information (25% of grade):

You must include a “concept-art” sketch or 3-D model of your attraction/entertainment offering. The sketch or model must feature an attraction, store, or restaurant that incorporates visual elements of your topic. For example, if your topic was “Sun,” and you wanted to have a restaurant in Astronomyland that had a sun theme, you could build a model of a sun-shaped restaurant. If you were creating a Space Shuttle ride, you may take inspiration from the Disneyland attraction pictured on this page. Most importantly, you need to be creative. Make your attraction fun to look at, and even more fun to experience! It should be colorful, neat, and creative!



Photo from “Joe’s Disney Resort Photo Site”.

To Infinity and Beyond:

Once your individual project is finished, you will come together with your group to build your land. Your group will then be responsible for bringing all of your attractions together into a single land. This land will be showcased to the class.

