

Up Up and Away

Your mission: To create a superhero or supervilian, capable of violating one of the principles of physics.

Your methods: You may write a short story, a graphic novel, or create a short film. Any other creative method must be approved by Mr. Cochran prior to December 18th.

What must be accomplished: Tell a tale in the first person, in which you, as the author, fight crime in a milieu of your choice. As a superhero, you have special talents. Your given talent is to violate one principle of physics. Violating the principle of physics means you have certain powers over reality that you may utilize in your pursuit of the character you create as your nemesis. In your story, you must demonstrate that you understand how a principle of physics applies to reality, by showing how you alter reality by violating that principle.

Specifics: Write a short story, 3 to 5 pages in length, or draw a graphic novel of comparable length, or make a film of about 3 to 5 minutes in length. If you choose to make a short film, it will be shown in class. Talk to Mr. Cochran about any other creative ideas you have if you wish to pursue this task in a different fashion.

Due Dates:

December 18th two sentences turned in to Mr. Cochran. One sentence tells which principle you will violate, and one sentence will be an example of how you can alter reality by violating this principle.

Your project is due at your final. Storyboards must be turned in with any video.

Grading:

This assignment is worth 150 points. 25 points for your proposal. 100 points for quality of physics knowledge demonstrated, and 25 points for “readability.” This is not English class, but utilize the talents you have developed in your writing assignments over the last 12 years to create a fun story that obeys the rules of English grammar, and proper spelling and formatting conventions. This goes for movies and comics as well.

Some thoughts on style and content, and rules:

1) Remember, superheroes are paragons of virtue and justice. Ok, so maybe all of them are not... but YOU are. Yes, that is a threat delivered in Batman’s low rumble. Keep it school appropriate.

2) Setting is important, as is character. But this is a physics assignment. Guess what you will be graded on?

3) We’ve talked about Newton’s three laws, conservation of momentum, conservation of energy, the work-energy theorem, equilibrium, gravity, and numerous quantities we measure in physics. We will be discussing more concepts in the next weeks. Try to avoid the definitions... violating the definition of acceleration is boring. Violating a fundamental law of physics is not.

4) You may work in pairs, but if you do so, I expect an extra layer of work. If you work in pairs, one author will be the hero, and one the villain. The villain will also violate a law of physics. I expect a story between 8-10 pages, rather than 5. Filmmakers and artists should also add an extra layer of complexity if working in pairs. Appearing in a class-mates film does not count as doing a project. Writing the script is required.

5) Hire an impartial editor. Stan Lee has one, and you don’t have the clout Stan Lee does.

6) Let your imagination run wild.

7) Show off your knowledge of physics.