What is a PECE Essay?

PECE essays are multimedia publications. They are being tested and developed as an alternative to traditional peer-reviewed articles, which are often difficult to access for a number of reasons. Peer-reviewed articles also limit the number of words, images, links, and references that can be included in a publication. You also can't include videos, color images, etc. So PECE Essays are designed to give the creator/author many more options for including content. For the final project, you will write between 3000-5000 words of text (that's about a 12-17 page double-spaced paper, depending on formatting) and that text will fill in your PECE Essays. You can curate the essay any way you want and we will talk about this over the course of the term. Below are some example PECE essays with my commentary on them.

Model PECE Essays

"STS in 'Africa' in Formation" by Angela Okune and Aadita Chaudhury. 2018.
[I highlight this essay because it does some of the analytic framing work that I would love to see in your final projects. It brings in concepts and highlights a problem (in the field of STS) It also does a fabulous job of linking project data using links and embedded PECE Essays. And, of course, it walks you through and describes everything they did.]

"STS as Critical Pedagogy" by Emily York and Shannon Conley. 2019.
[I like this one for all the same reasons as the "STS in 'Africa' in Formation' essay by Okune and Chaudhury. You get a great sense of how they have brought in different kinds of materials -- images, videos, screenshots of texts, posters, etc. It's very rich AND they do a great job with analytic framing as well. Note in both of these examples how they use the triple column feature to organize content. The left-hand column provides analytic questions, an essay map, and how to cite the essay.]

"Transnational STS COVID-19 Project" by a lot of people…. 2020.
[This essay introduces a transnational, collaborative research project. It's layout is different than some of the other ones. Again, keep in mind that there are no standards for how to design these. Some projects create templates for the PECE Essays, and you should certainly borrow these if you like them. Be creative.]

"Minnesota / Wisconsin Field Station" by Jason Ludwig and Tim Schütz. 2020.
[I highlight this one, again, just to show you how folks have used PECE essays to archive and curate project material using very different analytics. This essay documents fieldwork done over a few days.]

"PES Refinery: Impact on People" by Atharva Bhagwat. 2019.
[This is a segment of Atharva's STAR project from Summer 2019. Shortly after Atharva started his project on air pollution in Philadelphia, the PES refinery disaster happened. This essay

collects some of the social media data and news articles that came out in the weeks directly after the event.]

[Philadelphia, a City Under Construction](#) by J. Skylar Ricci. 2019.
[One of a few essays in progress that look at a very specific environmental health issue in Philadelphia. This is just to show you that you can work on this in piecemeal fashion over time.]

[The PA Bulletin](#) and [Repeating Sites](#) by J. Skyler Ricci. 2019.
[This is another essay in progress where we are just more or less storing artifacts for the time being, working on it sporadically. But I wanted to point to how you might include interview excerpts in your essays.]

[Weather Ready Homes - 2019](#) by Sarah Stalcup and Ali Kenner. 2020.
[Again, another essay where we are more or less archiving data. Not much analysis yet. But check out the data visualizations that Sarah put together, viewable in the lower left-hand column. These visualizations are based off of survey data, which I hope we'll have from our class projects.]

For your final projects here are some things you might include:
-A methods section that describes what you did over the quarter.
-A background section
-Sections that explain specific policies or programs
-Findings
-Data visualizations from your surveys
-Excerpts from your interview transcripts
-Quotes from peer-reviewed articles, news articles, social media, reports, etc.

Again, we will talk about this over the coming weeks, right up until the end of the class. Some important suggestion for constructing PECE Essays:

(1) Write all text offline, outside housingenergy.info first and then copy and paste. And save your work often!!
(2) Outline the design offline first so that you have the layout already decided before you begin adding content.