

ASIA 2512: Explorations of Japanese Animation

Mahō Shōjo Sentai Assignment Guidelines

What better way to study the *mahō shōjo* (magical girl) genre of TV anime than to create your own magical girl TV series concept? That's what your Mahō Shōjo Sentai (Magical Girl Task Force) is being asked to do in this **fun** assignment. Discover your team on the back of this page.

Step one is to read carefully through the online guideline "So You Want to Write a Magical Girl Series" at <https://goo.gl/kU9syb>. It provides very useful explanations of the basic tropes and structures of the genre, with a point-by-point guide to the ingredients of a magical girl anime.

Step two is to coordinate with the other members of your Sentai (personally and/or virtually) a basic concept and basic magical girl types for a series featuring a team of five (or four). While doing one team of five is the most straightforward, it is possible to come up with different configurations of magical girls (as antagonists, for example) for your concept as long as each of you end up in charge of designing and profiling one magical girl. You will likely have to have some general sense of the big picture of your series to design your magical girls accordingly. Your concept should demonstrate your understanding of the tropes of the genre, but you are encouraged to come up with twists and variations rather than simply copying the basics. The online guideline offers suggestions along these lines.

Step three is for each of you to work on filling out an individual magical girl. The "So You Want to Write a Magical Girl Series" website (and possibly your own TV anime experience) is a key resource for this. While you are designing an individual character, you will also have to coordinate her attributes with the basic team concept that your Sentai discussed in step two.

Step four is to brainstorm further as a team to fill out the main aspects of your series. Once you have a skeletal plot, consider each of the following:

1. Themes
2. Location/scenario
3. Props/gear
4. Costumes
5. Choreography (of transformations, battles, etc.)

Assigning one person as lead for each of these as if on a production crew is recommended, but of course you all can collaborate on all aspects when brainstorming and refining. You should produce a short paragraph for each item; illustrations can be included when appropriate.

Step five is to compile your concept as a package to pitch to the class and me, an anime producer who may or may not choose to fund your concept. You may choose to do your pitch in any way, shape, or form that you decide to be most effective, but you will be strictly held to FIVE MINUTES and will be cut off when your time is up, because as an anime executive producer I am a busy guy who needs to be persuaded swiftly if you are to hold my interest.

After your pitch, turn into me, as a single package that includes each individual magical girl profile, the descriptions from step four, and a cover page that gives a pithy one-paragraph description of your team's concept. Your efforts will be figured into your participation grade.

Sakura (Cherry) Sentai:

Ryan Arroyo
Hua Lin
Chiyerre Echie
Jasmine Jefferson
Imani Gaines

Momo (Peach) Sentai:

Carsen Smith
Will Bell
Alex Silverman
Yoko Kanai
Zack Ely

Ume (Plum) Sentai:

May Braverman
Brianna Galgano
Jeff Tang
Allegra Freund
Edwin Gee

Kaki (Persimmon) Sentai:

Robert Tano
Anthony Pham
Mary Beth Schatzman
Alade Malik
Valentina Lin

Ichigo (Strawberry) Sentai:

Moose Lapu
Jennifer Chou
Jessica Huang
Peter Luong
Jonathan Cheung

Nashi (Pear): Sentai:

DooHee Lee
Frank Cao
Chen Cheng
Ben Knight
Tom Meltzer

Mikan (Tangerine) Sentai:

Amy Lee
Dan Hong
Don Yang
Jack Wei

