

ASIA 2512: Explorations of Japanese Animation

Mecha Sentai Assignment Guidelines

What better way to study the *mecha* (mechanical = robot) genre of TV anime than to create your own mecha TV series concept? That's what your Mecha Sentai (Mecha Task Force) is being asked to do in this **fun** assignment. Discover your team on the back of this page (same as your magical girl team).

Step one is to read carefully through the online guideline "So You Want to Write a Humongous Mecha Anime Series" at <https://goo.gl/gqE6xD>. It provides useful explanations of the basic tropes and structures of the genre, with a point-by-point guide to the ingredients of a mecha anime.

Step two is to coordinate with the other members of your Sentai a basic concept. A team with several mecha on it is not usually the norm in anime, but not unheard of (*Neon Genesis Evangelion*, for example, has a team of mecha). However, there is usually a team of some sort, such as command and support personnel that coordinates deployment of the mecha and adds drama in secondary storylines. So, unlike the case of your Magical Girl Sentai where you each designed a magical girl, your division of labor should follow a cast of characters that may or may not include more than one mecha (robot) figure. You can include secondary mecha, as well as antagonist mecha/humans/aliens. 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 character. While you are designing an individual character, you will also have to coordinate her/his attributes and role in the series.

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. Mecha design
4. Weapon design
5. Any other mechanical design (gear, vehicles, 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 a single package that includes a cover page that gives a pithy one-paragraph description of your team's concept; profiles of your mecha and of your other characters; and appropriate descriptions of items from step 4. Your efforts will be figured into your participation grade.

Pyro Sentai:

Ryan Arroyo
Hua Lin
Chiyerre Echie
Jasmine Jefferson
Imani Gaines

Chrono Sentai:

Carsen Smith
Will Bell
Alex Silverman
Yoko Kanai
Zack Ely

Blade Sentai:

May Braverman
Brianna Galgano
Jeff Tang
Allegra Freund
Edwin Gee

Havoc Sentai:

Robert Tano
Anthony Pham
Mary Beth Schatzman
Alade Malik
Valentina Lin

Meta Sentai:

Moose Lapu
Jennifer Chou
Jessica Huang
Peter Luong
Jonathan Cheung

Void Sentai:

DooHee Lee
Frank Cao
Chen Cheng
Ben Knight
Tom Meltzer

Nova Sentai:

Amy Lee
Dan Hong
Don Yang
Jack Wei