Grid of 9

A thesis is an area of investigation and a project that is created in response to that inquiry. The first semester of the thesis process involves testing and iterating many ideas through prototypes before narrowing in on the trajectory that you will eventually pursue.

The goals of this assignment are:

To consider the field of possibilities that surrounds your initial idea.

To separate tools from concepts. A thesis is based on an area of inquiry and questioning, leading to a concept that can be explored in many different ways, using many different kinds of tools.

Please note: this exercise is not prescriptive, and you are not bound to these ideas; it is a prompt to help kick start your thinking process.

Rule set summary: write down 3 different areas of questioning and a related initial concept to pursue each. Then, consider 3 completely different ways (tools, methods, forms) for exploring each concept. Tldr: 3 ideas, each made in 3 different ways.

----

1. Develop three completely different sets of domains, issues or questions you are interested in investigating. Here are a few examples loosely based on previous Thesis Projects:

● I am interested in how colors are understood and valued by different cultures.
● I am interested in how New Yorkers can learn about their rights as tenants in rent-controlled buildings.
● I am interested in how game technologies can be used to expand storytelling.
● I am interested in how young women can be encouraged to pursue STEM-related careers.
● I am interested in how algorithmic generation can be harnessed to artistic ends.

2. Next, develop that area of investigation into potential thesis concepts:

"I would like to research different conceptions of the primary colors by researching one culture from each continent. From this research, I will conceptualize a narrative that shares these understandings of red, yellow and blue."

"I would like to research the current rent laws, and how tenants rights are made known to the public. I will create an information graphic or system diagram that captures the rights and responsibilities of tenants, landlords and government agencies."

"I would like to research five of the most promising examples of experimental storytelling. For the three I am most interested in, I will diagram the relationship between the narrative, the interaction model, the technology and the visual and aural aesthetics."

"I would like to research the current state of STEM education as it relates to young women in order to identify the five key problems keeping young women from pursuing engineering careers. I will develop a list of potential solutions for the three problems I am most interested in and capable of addressing."

"I would like to research five of the most exciting examples of algorithmic art. I will pick my three favorites, and conceptualize a project of my own using the same algorithms."

3. For each concept, think of three completely different project based responses, using different forms of media / methods to realize that concept. Consider using entirely different ways of working, that can address the subject or theme from different perspectives.

You should ultimately end up with a grid of 9: three concepts, each realized three different ways. For example, using the color perception across cultures inquiry:

●   An illustrated children's book that tells the story of a young woman traveling around the world to collect the primary colors.
●   A game in which players connect colors and feelings to objects from around the world.
●   An interactive information visualization that uses a splayed map of the world as its interface.

4. For each of the 9 cells, list pros and cons, and rate your relative level of excitement for each.

5. Prepare a 7 minute presentation to share your Grid with your class.

Example Grid using the examples from above

"I would like to research different conceptions of the primary colors by researching one culture from each continent. From this research, I will conceptualize a narrative that shares these understandings of red, yellow and blue."	*"I would like to research the current rent laws, and how tenants rights are made known to the public. I will create an information graphic or system diagram that captures the rights and responsibilities of tenants, landlords and government agencies."*	*"I would like to research five of the most promising examples of experimental storytelling. For the three I am most interested in, I will diagram the relationship between the narrative, the interaction model, the technology and the visual and aural aesthetics."*
1. An illustrated children's book that tells the story of a young woman traveling around the world to collect the primary colors.		
2. A game in which players connect colors and feelings to objects from around the world.		
3. An interactive information visualization that uses a splayed map of the world as its interface.		