



Utopia!

Utopia is on the horizon: I go two steps, she moves two steps way. I walk ten steps, and the horizon runs ten steps ahead. No matter how much I walk, I'll never reach her. What good is Utopia? That's what: it's good for walking.

-- Eduardo Galeano

It is time to discover your own Utopia. It can be based on your ultimate "win" from the exercise we did in class, or it could be something new, but so you aren't working on this for days, here's a focus: make your Utopia issue-oriented. For example, if you are working on prison reform, sketch a vision of a world without prisons, without the need for prisons, in which prison buildings become something else entirely and everyday life is transformed. Get the picture?

This exercise is in two -- interconnected -- parts. You can do them together, or do them at separate times.

Part I

Take out a sketchbook or large piece of paper. Draw pictures, with as much vivid detail as possible, of what *your* Utopia might look like. Fill the page, use color, add details, and draw with abandon.

You're drafting a Utopia, a no-place, and no one else needs to ever see it. Remember, this is just an exercise. You're practicing a creative process. This will be the first of many Utopias you will envision. It can be fantastical – and highly flawed. It's ok. There's no pressure. Have fun with it.

Part II

Take your initial Utopian sketch from Step #1 and work it all into an Artistic Activist piece: an installation, performance or mural. Maybe even a song or a poem. Write and draw what your piece would look and sound like.

Again, don't sweat it, it doesn't have to be presented to anyone. It can be impossible, scary, silly. It can be whatever you want. It just has to take form as something.

Congratulate yourself: you've found Utopia!