

Name: _____ Hour: _____ Date: _____

Midaq Alley: Arab Spring Group Scavenger Hunt

As you came to understand in class today, the purpose a writer is trying to communicate informs what genre and text type he chooses to deliver his message with. This leaves us with two questions as savvy literary scholars:

1. What is the purpose of an artist - to depict reality accurately or aesthetically pleasing?
2. How close to reality does art need to be to depict it accurately?

To answer these questions and learn more about the Arab Spring, you will be going on a little scavenger hunt to find these different text types as they relate to the rebellion in Egypt against the Mubarak administration starting in 2011 to the present moment. For each format, you will need to include the title and author of your piece, a brief summary of its main points about the rebellion, and how it effects the reader's perception of the events in the table below.

While you are working in groups, you each need to turn in your own copy with your own writing - do not just copy down the words of someone else. This defeats the purpose of talking out your ideas with your group mates and looks like you are cheating by plagiarizing someone else's work (something I know you are too intelligent to ever think of).

You want to check out the school's databases first. They are a great source of information that many students forget to use. Then, you want to check out websites that **DO NOT** end with .com, unless it is a reliable news outlet, such as *CNN* or *The New York Times*. Finally, you might want to check out some great websites that are written by people in the Middle East and translated into English, such as <http://www.aljazeera.com>, <http://www.world-newspapers.com/east.html>, <http://www.tahrirdocuments.org>, <http://www.aucegypt.edu/onthesquare/Pages/ots.aspx>, <http://www.jadaliyya.com>. You are also free to visit other sources, particularly Egyptian's blogs about the events (which might have a .com and is ok in this one instance).

Text Type	Summary of Main Points	Effect on Reader's Perception
Middle Eastern Newspaper / Magazine Article		
Western Newspaper/ Magazine Article		

Text Type	Summary of Main Points	Effect on Reader's Perception
Political Poster/ Advertisement		
Song Lyrics		
Short Story		
Blog Posting		
Tweets		
Government Speech/ Proclamation		

Which text type do you think is the most effective? Why?

How does the text type change the way the writer constructs his or her message?

Why do you think Mahfouz chose to write a novel given these other textualities?

Which do you think is the most effective at depicting the reality of the situation? Do you feel they did so accurately to the events taking place or by making it aesthetically pleasing? Why?