

The Conventions Used in Comics & How they Parallel Conventions Used in Prose

Comic	Prose
1. balloon	1. quotation marks
2. balloon made of dashes	2. talking quietly
3. narrative box	3. narrator
4. visually moving from left to right, top to bottom (both as sequence of boxes and movements in each box)	4. always reading left to right, top to bottom of page
5. thought bubbles	5. person's thoughts
6. asterisk	6. footnotes
7. light bulb	7. good idea
8. separate frames	8. paragraphs
9. different sizes of words	9. Underlining words, exclamation marks, emphasis on words by sentence structure

There is a set assembly-line process used by the comic industry when creating a comic book. We will simulate the process by dividing the group (up to 3 people) into the following areas:

1. The writers: create the plot, write the story, and divide the story into frames for the artist.
2. The artists: draw and ink the illustrations, visually create characters and setting.
3. The letterers: write the words on the title and splash pages and create the dialogue bubbles.

Adapted from:

Winters, Robert and Bobby Banquer. "80.04.02: Flash! Super Heroes Teach Students How to Read And Write" Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute. Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, 2011. Web. 27 August 2010.
<http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1980/4/80.04.02.x.html>