“Creativity by Constraint”
Tom Klein

Applicable to any creative assignments.

The goal:
Leading student work to be more inventive/original,
to be less derivative.

Example of a creative constraint from literature:

- iambs/poetic meter

“If by dull rhymes our English must be chained,
And, like Andromeda, the Sonnet sweet
Fettered, in spite of pained loveliness;
Let us find out, if we must be constrained.”

- John Keats “On the Sonnet”

Examples of technical constraints:

- early Pixar films
- 8 bit graphics
Intermediate Animation Workshop, constraints that were introduced:

- Premise based on aspect of culture or myth
- Graphic/picture-based "visual logic"
- Premise based on an aspect of the student's everyday life, making interesting observations about the ordinary.

Fall 2011: ideas in progress / student votes and creative discussions
Rewards of constraints

- Surprising results (good/bad)
- Originality/innovative thinking
- Enables creative problem-solving