

WP3: Analysis of a Discourse Community

For the final writing project of the semester, you'll be asked to analyze a discourse community. For this assignment, you'll be asked to:

- Choose a discourse community to analyze. Ideally, you'll choose the same community that you used for WP2, but you'll be allowed to change if you have a compelling reason for doing so.
- Look specifically at the language the community uses, including special phrases common on the site and any other aspects of the language on the site that may be interesting.
- Explore the language/knowledge expectations on the site. How do they expect you to post? What do they expect you to know?
- **Make a claim about the discourse community** and support that claim with evidence gathered through observations from WP2 or new observations conducted for this assignment.
- **Compare this discourse community to a discourse community you're likely to join in the future** (most likely either the discourse community of your major or of your future career). In order to do this, you'll have to research the second discourse community somewhat. Look for sources of information professional and/or scholarly publications in the second discourse community. These sources should be representative of the field.

Minimum Length: 1600 words.

Sources: A minimum of **3 scholarly or professional sources** are required for analysis. These sources must be cited in **APA style**.

Audience: A new member to the future discourse community that you are analyzing.

Additional requirements: All drafts must be typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12-point font. Please use 1-inch margins. All documents should be posted in the My Docs section of MyASU. Files must be named with your name, the writing project number, and the draft (i.e. "Ryan Shepherd WP2 First Draft").

Learning Objectives

In this assignment, you will learn:

- To gather data through primary and secondary research.
- To analyze discourse communities.
- To compare discourse in two different discourse communities.
- To reflect on language/knowledge necessary to enter future discourse communities.
- To make claims and support them with evidence.
- To successfully incorporate secondary research into written texts.

Grading Criteria

Your assignment will be graded on the following:

- **Focus on the Language and Knowledge Conventions of the Discourse Communities:** Your entire paper focuses on what is important to know in the discourse communities and how knowledge is constructed in those communities.
- **Claim Made About the Online Discourse Community:** You make a clear, concise, and well-supported claim about the type of discourse in your online community.
- **Depth of Comparison to Future Discourse Community:** You have made an effort to understand the discourse of your future discourse community and compare that discourse to the discourse in your online community.
- **Adequate Support for Claims Made About Each Discourse Community:** You support all claims about each discourse community with quotes and/or screen captures of the discourse.
- **Clear Explanation and integration of Support:** You explain how all support used demonstrates the points that you are making about the discourse.
- **Selection of Sources:** The sources you have selected accurately represent the future discourse community.
- **Accurate Use of Quotation/Paraphrase and Proper APA Citation:** You have properly cited all of your sources both in text and on the reference page. You have quoted or paraphrased your sources appropriately to avoid plagiarism.
- **Content Organization:** You have organized the content of your paper in a reasonable way. Your information is easy to understand, and your points are easy to follow. There is both an introduction and a conclusion. The paper clearly presents a central claim, and the content is organized around that claim. Paragraphs are ordered in such a way that they cannot be reordered at random, but instead provide logical transitions between ideas.
- **Attention to Assignment:** You adhere to the assignment as presented above, including main objectives, word count, attention to audience, and the additional requirements. You clearly understand what the assignment is asking you to do and are attempting to do it.
- **Manuscript preparation:** You have made changes between drafts that reflect attention to both instructor and peer comments. You have made an effort to improve your paper.

First drafts are due on **Tuesday, November 20th**.

Revised drafts are due on **Thursday, November 29th**.

Final drafts are due on **Thursday, December 6th**.