

ENG 1510

Writing & Rhetoric I



WP2: Discourse Communities

Summary

For WP2, you will find a new community to join and will analyze the discourse of the community to make claims about what they value.

Basic Requirements

First and final drafts need to be multimodal, including more than one mode of communication. Content should be equivalent to approximately 1800 words.

Due Dates

First drafts are due on **Thursday, October 22nd**

Final drafts are due on **Tuesday, November 1st**

Learning Objectives

- Analyze Discourse.
- Effectively investigate and join discourse communities.
- Gather primary evidence through observation and testing theories.
- Build and support a single claim.
- Organizing and presenting ideas effectively.
- Incorporate multiple modes with written text.

Basics

The basics are the minimum requirements for WP2. First drafts are graded on the basics.

- Choose a single discourse community to focus on. This community must be reasonably sized, active, user-focused, and **new to you**. It cannot be a community that you already belong to. Online communities are best because they can be viewed and commented on by peers during class time.
- Observe the community thoroughly by reading, watching, asking questions, interviewing, and eventually participating. Take **thorough notes** and **many screen captures** during the process. Save **links** to quotes. Please remember, in online spaces, things may be deleted without warning. If you don't document things, you may never find them again.
- Make a clear and convincing **claim or series of claims** about **what your discourse community values in good discourse**. Your claim(s) should be:
 - Clear and stated directly early in the project.
 - Both surprising and unique. That is to say, they should not be something obvious about the community and should not be something that applies to many communities.
 - Supported with evidence, such as quotes, links, screen captures, interviews, etc.

Basics (continued)

- All support should be directly tied to your claim. This means there are likely observations you have that you will not use in your final draft. The point is to make and support a claim, not to document your observations.
- Direct your project to an interested but novice audience: someone who wants to join your discourse community but is not a member yet. This means your audience will *not* understand the basics of the community and some explanation will be necessary.
- Submit your first and final drafts in Google Drive by sharing them with me (RPShepherd@gmail.com). First drafts must also be shared with your peer review group. Your file should be named with your name, your class, and the assignment (i.e. Malcolm Reynolds ENG 1510 WP2).

Form

As with WP1, the form of this project is up to you, but you should choose a form that is suited to your content. Most people will need to represent at least visuals and links for WP2, so choose a form that supports that content. Good forms for WP2 might include a Prezi, PowerPoint, or webpage, but other formats are acceptable as long as there's a good reason for your choice.

Grading Criteria

WP2 will be graded on a scale of A to F. Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

- **Focus:** Your paper focuses on what your community values in good discourse.
- **Understanding of your discourse community:** You have taken the time to investigate your discourse community thoroughly. You can participate effectively.
- **Central claim:** You have a clear central claim or series of connected claims that are articulated early in the paper. The claims are surprising and unique and focuses on what your community values in discourse.
- **Evidence:** You use clear evidence to support your claim. You explain the evidence fully. There is enough evidence to support your claim.
- **Representation of evidence:** Your evidence is demonstrated through real interactions and content within the space in the form of images, links, and other multimodal content. You explain what we are seeing and why we are seeing it.
- **Connection between evidence and claim:** All of the evidence is clearly connected to the claim(s). You explain why the evidence supports your claim(s).
- **Organization:** You have organized your project into segments that focus on a single topic. Segments are ordered to help your audience understand well. You provide an introduction that introduces the community and what they value and a conclusion that summarizes your main points.
- **Attention to assignment:** Your final draft meets requirements of the assignment, including appropriate selection of community, 1800-word-equivalent content, sharing with me, and appropriate naming of the document.
- **Manuscript preparation:** You have changed your first draft based on my suggestions and those of your peers. Main suggestions are not ignored, and small changes are not made when large changes are necessary.

Grading

- A: You exceed expectations for the assignment. You have met all criteria and gone beyond.
- B: You meet all expectations for the assignment.
- C: You have minor problems meeting some or all expectations for the criteria.
- D: You have major problems meeting some or all expectations for the criteria.
- F: You do not meet the minimum expectations for the assignment.