

# ENG 3080J

## Writing & Rhetoric II



### WP1: Writing in My Field



This semester, we will be analyzing the writing of your field. For WP1, you will analyze a piece of writing from either your major or your future career. You will need to select a piece of writing written by an expert for an audience of other experts, such as from a scholarly or professional journal. From there, you will analyze the features of the writing, including how writers in your field use language, what citation they use, how they use non-linguistic elements, and how they organize documents. Specifically try to find features of your writing unique to your field.

### Learning Objectives

- To begin to explore writing in your field.
- To learn to read like a writer in your field.
- To analyze writing features important to writing in your field.
- To analyze how writing in your field may differ from writing in other fields.
- To practice breaking down the types of features to explore in discourse communities.
- To learn to use deep rhetorical reading techniques to understand difficult documents.

### Length and Content Requirements

- All drafts must be a minimum of 1500 words or the multimodal equivalent.
- All projects must include at least one mode other than written text.

### Due Dates

- Completion Draft: September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Final Draft: September 24<sup>th</sup>

### Submission

- Please submit your completion and final drafts in Google Drive by placing your file in your shared folder with me.
- All documents should be named with your name, your class, and the assignment (e.g. “Malcolm Reynolds ENG 3080J WP1”).
- Submit text documents as Google Docs (not Word docs or PDFs).
- Submit multimodal documents either by uploading files into your Google Drive folder or by placing links in a Google Doc.

### Form

Choose a form that suits your content: for example, if you will be focusing on visuals, use a visual format. Possible forms include video, animation, podcast, Prezi, webpage, infographic, etc. If you choose a traditional paper, it still must include visuals, audio, and/or links to other media.

Please ask for help! I encourage you to try various forms, even if they are new to you. If you do not know how to make the content you want, ask!

## Basics

The Basics are a demonstration of the basic understanding of the assignment. Completion drafts will be graded solely on your understanding of the basics.

- Determine what field you would like to focus on. I suggest choosing the field of your future career. Try to get as close as possible to what you would like to do after graduation. If you are unsure, feel free to consider a field that you are considering or even to simply choose the field of your major. This is no small choice, as you will focus on writing in this field for the rest of the semester. You can change your field at any point, but the assignments ramp up: writing for WP1 will help with WP2 and so on. Because of this, changing the field you are focusing on will put you a little behind.
- Choose a single article or other document written by an expert in your field for other experts. This will likely be from a scholarly journal—a periodical where researchers in your field write for researchers and other professionals—or a professional journal—a periodical where professionals in your field write for other professionals. Choose an article that has a topic that is interesting to you.
- Read your article carefully, paying special attention to the ways that the author is conveying meaning to you as a reader. In particular, consider:
  - The way that they use language: do they tend to use passive or active voice, do they use “I,” do they use simple language, do they use specialized or general vocabulary, etc.? Any language features you notice that are unique to your field are fair to discuss.
  - The citation practices they use: What citation format do they use? Do they stick strictly to it, or is it modified? If it is modified, what changes are made, and why do you think they are? Anything unusual about citation is fair to discuss.
  - The non-linguistic elements they use: Do they use things like charts, graphs, equations, symbols, images, models, and so on? If so, how are these used? How do they convey meaning to the audience? Anything other than language that is used to convey meaning is fair to discuss.
  - The organizational style they use: How is the text organized? Is the style familiar to you? For example, do they use a strict IMRAD format often used in science writing or do they provide their own organizational structure? Where is the main point of the article: is it early on or at the end? How are headings and subheadings used? Why do you think the article is structured in the way it is? Anything related to the overall organization of the article is fair to discuss.
- Your main focus in this writing project should be *only* on the article you have selected. However, you are welcome to mention other knowledge you have about the field as reference as long as you stay focused on your article. For example, it is reasonable to mention if any of the features of the writing resemble or do not resemble other writing you have encountered in the field. Just be sure to stay focused on your article.

## Grading

The following criteria will be used to determine grades for the final draft:

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Selection of Article	The article you have selected is written by an expert for other experts. It is from a reputable source and is representative of writing in your field.	The article you have selected is written by an expert for other experts. It comes from a source in your field.	The article selected is written for non-experts and/or is from a source outside of your field.
Analysis of Linguistic Features	You have clearly explained multiple linguistic features of your article that are unique to your field.	You have explained at least two linguistic features of your article that are common in your field.	Fewer than two linguistic features are discussed and/or these features are not unique to or common in your field.
Analysis of Citation Features	You have correctly identified the citation format used in your article and explained at least two ways in which it has been modified, including a short explanation for why you think the modification is present.	You have correctly identified the citation format used in the article and explained at least one way in which it has been modified.	The citation format is incorrectly identified, modifications are incorrectly identified, or no explanation for modifications is given.
Analysis of Non-Linguistic Features	You have clearly explained how at least two non-linguistic elements are used and clearly explained how they convey meaning to the audience.	You have explained at least one non-linguistic element conveys meaning to the audience.	No non-linguistic elements are explained, or it is not clear how these elements convey meaning to the audience.
Analysis of Organization	You have clearly explained the organizational structure and broken down why the structure is organizing how it is.	You have explained the basic organizational structure and how that structure compares to other articles in the field.	The explanation of the organizational structure is unclear or no explanation for the structure is given.

## Grading (Continued)

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Identification of Unique Features	You have identified at least two features in the categories above that are truly unique to your field and not found in other fields.	You have identified at least one feature in the categories above that is unique to your field.	No features identified above are unique to your field.
Use of Specific Examples	Each of the above four features has at least one clear and representative example in the form of a quote, screen shot, or other direct evidence.	Each of the above four features has at least one example in the form of a quote, screen shot, or other direct evidence.	One or more of the above features is missing an example or the examples are unclear.
Explanation of Specific Examples	Each example is clearly explained and connected to overall points made about that feature of the text.	Each example is clearly explained.	One or more examples is not clearly explained.
Organization	The organization enhances the text, making it easy to follow. There is a clear introduction with a helpful overview and a clear conclusion with an insightful summary.	The organization is reasonable. There is a clear introduction with an overview and a clear conclusion with a summary.	The organization is hard to follow, and/or the project is missing an introduction or conclusion.
Multimodal Elements	You have used three or more non-linguistic modes to convey meaning or have created a non-traditional text.	You have used at least one non-linguistic mode to convey meaning.	No non-linguistic modes are used to convey meaning.
Manuscript Preparation	You have responded carefully and thoughtfully to your peers' feedback.	You have responded to your peers' feedback.	Response to peers' feedback is minimal.
Attention to Assignment	You meet the basic requirements of the assignment, including 1500-word-equivalent in content, sharing with me, and appropriate naming of documents.	You are close to the basic requirements of the assignment but may have missed one or more pieces.	Your project is well short of the 1500-word equivalent, has not been shared, or is not named appropriately.

## Grading (Continued)

Your grade for WP1 will be determined by the criteria above. A “not met” cancels out one “exceptional.”

		# Exceptional	# Met	# Not Met
A	100	12	0	0
	97.5	11	1	0
	95	10	2	0
A-	92.5	9	3	0
	90	8	4	0
B+	88.5	7	5	0
	87	6	6	0
B	85	5	7	0
	83	4	8	0
B-	80	3	9	0
C+	78.5	2	10	0
C	75	1	11	0
	73	0	12	0
C-	70	0	11	1
D+	68.5	0	10	2
D	65	0	9	3
D-	60	0	8	4