

ENGL 103

Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois
University

WP3: Making Change

Description

WP3 builds directly on WP2. In small groups, you will compare the spaces you observed in the last writing project. You'll look for a way to change those spaces in a significant way to make them more welcoming for users of the space. This may involve making it more friendly for new users, for women, BIPOC, or LGBTQ+ users, or for international speakers of English for example. Your group must focus on one way in which your spaces are problematic and how they might change to be more welcoming. You do not need to focus on all of the spaces in your group. You can choose one space to focus on or more than one space that has the same problem. Your group can use data you collected from WP2 as well as continuing to do new observations of your spaces. The written portion will include a collaboratively written recommendation report in which you'll identify the problem and offer a solution. It will also include an individual reflection that each member will write on their own.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this writing project, students will be able to:

- Identify specific problems and argue that these problems are worth solving.
- Attempt to solve the above problems by influencing real people.
- Meet the rhetorical situation necessary to influence your audience.
- Mindfully make and reflect on rhetorical choices within that rhetorical situation.
- Further build on strategies for planning and revising writing.

Requirements

Choosing a Problem

The problem you choose from your space(s) must be one that is real and demonstrable. It must be significant enough to cause real problems for some users of the space. And it must be one that can be solved.

Proposals & Group Contracts

Before you begin work on your project, you must write a proposal in which you detail what your problem is, which spaces you will focus on in your recommendations report, what evidence you have that the problem exists, and how you might solve the problem. Proposals should include each task that needs to be completed and who will complete it within your group.

Arguing for the Problem

The first step in your recommendation report is demonstrating that your problem is real. This will require gathering evidence to show this problem occurring in some way and explaining how this problem may cause issues for some users.

Providing a Solution

You should provide at least one possible solution for this problem, such as rule changes, changing the interface, changing moderation practices, changing ways of joining the site, and so on. The changes must be possible and must help solve the problem. Overall, the Recommendation Report should be about **1200 words**.

Reflection

As with WP1 and WP2, your reflection will account for 50% of your grade for WP3. While the recommendation report will be written collaboratively with your peers, the reflection will be written individually. Like with WP1 and WP2, you will focus on choices made in the creation of your project, *but you will also* include practices that you used to work together with your peers. The reflection should be about **800 words**.

Submission

Please submit both the recommendation report and the reflection through OneDrive. Group evaluations should be emailed to me individually. Please approve any alternative methods to submit your materials with me in advance.

Naming Documents

Please name your files using the following convention:

course.section_your name_assignment.draft.

For example, a student in ENGL 103 section 08 named Malcolm Reynolds working on WP3 draft 1 would name their file:

103.08_MalcolmReynolds_wp3.1

Group Evaluations

Group evaluations should be submitted individually by email. This is separate from both the report and the reflection. In your group evaluation, please assess the contribution of each group member, including yourself.

Due Dates

- Proposals and group contracts are due on **Monday, November 6th**
- Completion drafts are due on **Monday, November 27th**
- Revision drafts are due on **Friday, December 1st**

Completion Drafts

Completion drafts are graded simply on demonstrating a basic understanding of the requirements. Grades for completion drafts aren't an indication of how well you'll do on the revision draft. To get full credit for the completion draft, you must do the following:

Choose a problem

Choose a problem that is real within one or more of your spaces. You have shown the problem is real through evidence gathered in the spaces.

Explain the problem

Explain why this is a problem for some users and offered clear evidence to show that. Evidence is explained clearly.

Offer a solution

Explain at least one possible solution for the issue. The solution solves the problem and is possible within the space.

Provide a reflection

Include an individual reflection as part of your draft that explains what choices you made in selecting and solving the problem, what choices you made in designing the recommendation report, and what methods your group used to work together. Like with previous writing projects, the reflection is 50% of your completion draft.

Completion Draft Grading

Reflections will be graded as usual for completion drafts. The completion draft for the report will be graded as a whole group, *but* please follow up with the instructor if someone has not completed their part.

Revision Drafts

Revision drafts are graded on the criteria below. Each criterion is evaluated as "exceptional," "met," or "not met." If all of the criteria are "exceptional," you will earn an A. If they are all "met," you will earn a C. One or more criteria in the "not met" column may result in an F.

Grading Criteria: Reflection	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
1. Reflecting on Your Problem and Solution	You have clearly explained both how your group selected the problem to focus on and how your solution fits the problem. Reasons for these selections are convincing.	You have explained how your group selected the problem to focus on and how the solution fits that problem.	The group's choice of problem and solution is not included or unclear.
2. Reflecting on Your Evidence	You have clearly explained why your group provided the specific evidence for both the problem and the solution. Reasons why the evidences was chosen are convincing.	You have explained why your group provided the specific evidence for both the problem and the solution	The choice of evidence is not included or unclear.
3. Reflecting on Your Audience	You have explained specific choices your group made to influence your audience. These choices are likely to have a positive impact.	You explained how your group's choices influence your audience.	How the group's choices influenced the audience is not included or unclear.
4. Reflecting on your Rhetorical Purpose	You have clearly explained the goal of WP3 and how your group met that goal.	You explain the goal of WP3.	The project goal is not mentioned or is unclear.
5. Reflecting on Your Teamwork	You have clearly explained what methods your group used to successfully work together and have included things you would do differently next time based on your experience.	You explain what methods your group used to successfully work together.	The methods used to work together are not included or are unclear.

Grading Criteria: Report	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
1. Choosing a Problem	You have selected a clear problem from one or more of your communities. The problem is identified early and focused on in the report.	You have selected a clear problem from one or more of your communities.	The problem selected is unclear or multiple problems are addressed.
2. Explaining the Problem	You have clearly explained how the problem impacts users, offering examples and evidence.	You have explained how the problem impacts users.	It is unclear how the problem impacts users.
3. Providing Evidence for the Problem	You have provided clear and convincing evidence to demonstrate your problem in action.	You have provided evidence to demonstrate your problem in action.	Evidence is not provided to show the problem in action, or evidence does not clearly align with the problem.
4. Offering a Solution	You have provided a reasonable solution for your problem and explained in detail how the solution can be implemented.	You have provided a reasonable solution for your problem.	A solution for the problem is not provided or is not reasonably actionable.
5. Explaining the Solution	You have provided a clear and convincing explanation for how the solution will be implemented. At least one example of how this solution has been implemented in another space is provided.	You have provided some explanation for how the solution will be implemented.	An explanation for how the solution will be implemented is not provided or is unclear.

Grading Criteria: Report	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
6. Responding to Feedback	You have revised your report substantially and/or thoughtfully based on both your peers' and your instructor's feedback.	You have revised your report based on both your peers' and your instructor's feedback.	No revisions to your report have been made or only minor changes have been made that do not adequately respond to feedback.
7. Meeting Requirements	You have met or exceeded all of the requirements for the report.	You have met all of the requirements for the report.	One or more of the requirements has not been met for the report.
8. Meeting Responsibilities	You have contributed to your project as described in your proposal and have worked well with your team to meet goals and integrate materials.	You have contributed to your project as described in your proposal.	One or more pieces assigned in the proposal was not completed, or responsibilities of other group members were taken from them without discussion.
9. Providing Group Evaluations	You have provided an individual group evaluation that explains in detail each members' contributions to the project and evaluates their performance.	You have provided an individual group evaluation that explains each members' contributions to the project.	The group evaluation is not provided, is written as a group, or does not clearly explain members' contributions.
10. BONUS: Sending Your Project	You have sent your project to your audience and provided proof of the audience's receipt.	--	--

