

ENGL 103

Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois
University

WP2: New Discourse

Description

For WP2, you will find a space that's new to you. The space should be currently active, small enough to get to know in the time frame, and user controlled. You'll observe that space, specifically looking for the language and genre conventions used. You'll compare and contrast this language and these conventions with the space you used for WP1. You'll specifically look for ways in which there may be problematic aspects of the space, such as sexist, racist, homophobic, or ableist language. Finally, you'll make suggestions for how to improve the space to make it more welcoming for new users.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Recognize patterns of language use in a new space.
- Recognize genre patterns in a new space.
- Identify exclusionary language or practices.
- Reflect on the ways that language is shaped by discourse community practices.
- Evaluate systems of language use.
- Further build strategies for planning and revising writing.

Requirements

Choosing an Appropriate Space

The space must be new to you. You can't have visited before. Your space can be digital or it can be in person. Spaces need to be currently active, meaning users are engaging in real time when you observe. It also must be appropriately sized, meaning you can keep up with all activity during the duration of the assignment. And finally, the space must be user controlled, meaning there is active interaction between members of the group.

Discourse Explanation

Explanation of your discourse community can take the form of a traditional paper or a multimodal project. However, even traditional projects will likely require some images or links to appropriate materials. Screen captures, photos, videos, and sound clips are encouraged. At least one multimodal element must be included. Your project should be approximately **1500 words** or the multimodal equivalent.

Submission

Please submit your project through OneDrive. Please approve any alternative methods to submit your writing project 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 WP2 draft 1 would name their file: 103.08_MalcolmReynolds_wp2.1

Due Dates

- Completion drafts are due on **Tuesday, March 21st**
- Revision drafts are due on **Thursday, March 30th**

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 an appropriate space

Your space is new to you, currently active, appropriately sized, and user controlled. Your space has been approved by the instructor. You have observed your space for a minimum of five hours by the time you write your draft.

Explain unique language features

You have explained ways that language is used within the space *differently* than it's used in WP1 or in other spaces. You might consider specialized vocabulary, abbreviations, grammar, or integrating media into language.

Explain unique genre features

You have explained one or more genres of written or spoken communication within the space. These genres are unique to the space and serve a social feature within it.

Explain exclusionary practices

You have identified one or more language (or other) practices within the space that might be exclusionary, such as sexist, racist, homophobic, or ableist language.

Explain improved practices

You offer at least one method for improving the language (or other) practices in the space that could make it more welcoming for new users.

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 will result in failure of the assignment.

Grading Criteria	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
1. Choice of Space	Your space is new to you, currently very active, sized to keep up with all content, and no one user (or small group) controls content	Your space is new to you, active, reasonably sized, and user focused	The space is not new to the writer, is not active, is much too big or too small, or does not allow for participation
2. Explaining Language Features	You have explained three or more language features unique to your space and compared them to WP1 or another space	You have explained one or more specialized language features of your space and compared them to WP1 or another space	Language features are not explained or are not compared to other discourse communities
3. Language Feature Examples	You have provided examples of your language features in use that are representative and help your reader understand how to use the feature	You have provided examples of your language features in use	No examples of language features are provided
4. Explaining Genres	You have explained two or more genres unique to your space, compared them to WP1 or another space, and explained the social context of the genre	You have explained one or more specialized genres of your space and compared them to WP1 or another space	Genre are not explained or are not compared to other discourse communities

5. Genre Examples	You have provided examples of your genres in use that are representative and help your reader understand how to use the genre	You have provided examples of your genres in use	No examples of genres are provided
6. Explaining Exclusionary Practices	You have explained two or more practices that may be exclusionary for some users and explained how they are exclusionary	You have explained one or more practices that may be exclusionary for some users	Exclusionary practices are not explained
7. Exclusionary Examples	You have provided examples of exclusionary practices that are representative of trends within the space and clearly represent the exclusion	You have provided examples of exclusionary practices in action	No examples of exclusionary practices are provided
8. Explaining Improved Practices	You have explained two or more changes to the space that would make it welcoming for new users and have explained how they would solve a problem	You have explained one or more changes to the space that would make it welcoming for new users	No improved practices are provided or the practices do not clearly improve a problem within the space
9. Responding to Feedback	You have revised substantially and/or thoughtfully based on both your peers' and your instructor's feedback	You have revised your project based on both your peers' and your instructor's feedback	No revisions have been made or only minor changes have been made that do not adequately respond to feedback
10. Meeting Requirements	You have met or exceeded all of the requirements for this assignment	You have met all of the requirements for this assignment	One or more of the requirements has not been met