

ENGL 629

Writing Transfer Theory & Practice



Northern Illinois
University

Application Project

Description

Grapple with the literature we've covered on writing transfer this semester and provide one of three possible final projects.

- Extend writing transfer theory in an article-style essay.
- Craft a research proposal for a transfer-based project.
- Apply writing transfer theory to a pedagogical setting.

All options are expected to be deeply connected to current research and to extend that research in some way.

For All Options

Please meet with Ryan in advance to approve your topic. All options should include ample citations and be both connected to writing transfer research and attempt to extend the research in some way: through new ways of thinking, new data, new research methods, or new practical applications. You are strongly encouraged to choose an option that will extend your own personal scholarly and pedagogical goals. Presentations are required but ungraded.

Option 1

The Article

For option 1, you will write a scholarly article that you might see in a journal in the field. You *must* include a venue in which you might submit your article. Because this option will be more theoretical, you will have ample citations that place your ideas into a scholarly conversation. Possible options include rethinking writing transfer ideas or connecting writing transfer to as-of-yet unconnected areas of research. For this option, only the article is required. Articles are expected to be 5,000-8,000 words in length.

Option 2

The Proposal

For option 2, you will create a research proposal in which you will gather new data to extend writing transfer research. The goal is to take current ideas and extend either types of data or research methods. Possible options include surveys, interviews, talk-alouds, focus groups, artifact analysis, and even longitudinal studies. Your proposal may include a combination of methods if applicable. Proposals should be between 3,000 and 5,000 words.

The IRB

Because you are creating a research proposal, you also will need to prepare an application for the Institutional Review Board (IRB). If you have not done so already, you should complete IRB training. The paperwork needs to be completed, but it does not need to be submitted by the end of the class.

Option 3

The Pedagogy

For option 2, you will create an application of the writing transfer theory we've discussed this semester. This could be a whole class, a single writing project, or a series of activities. This *cannot* be a pedagogical application we've already read about but must be a new approach.

The Artifacts

To demonstrate this approach, you will provide several pedagogical artifacts, such as assignment sheets, handouts, teaching PowerPoints, videos of in-class teaching, homework videos, scheduled readings, and so on. You are not required to provide *all* of the options above, just what's relevant in your situation.

The Reflection

Along with your artifacts, you will write a reflection explaining how your assignment fits into writing transfer theory, how artifacts push students' learning along, and what students will get out of your assignment(s) and materials. Reflections should be between 2,000 and 4,000 words.

Grading Contract

As with the exploration project, choose the level of grade you'd like for this assignment and complete *all* of the criteria for that column. Please be sure you are reading the appropriate criteria for the option you've chosen. If you are unsure if you are completing a criterion, please ask. If B+ criteria are not met, your grade will be a B or lower depending on the circumstances. Presentations are required for all options, but they are ungraded.

Option 1 Grades	A	A-	B+
Contribution	Your article provides a unique and compelling contribution that extends work done in the field.	Your article provides a contribution to what we've read. It extends work we have done in class.	Your article provides a contribution to what we've read. It adds to established ideas we have covered in class.
Conversation	You provide a minimum of 15 citations that are put into conversation with your own work.	You provide a minimum of 10 citations that are connected to your work directly.	You provide a minimum of 10 citations.
Venue	You have selected an appropriate venue for your work. You have followed style guidelines and referenced at least 3 works from that venue.	You have selected an appropriate venue for your work. You have referenced at least 1 work from that venue.	You have selected a venue for your work that is reasonable for your topic.

Option 2 Grades	A	A-	B+
Contribution	Your proposal offers a unique contribution to the literature. You have a clear research question and connect clearly to the work of the field. You have a minimum of 15 citations.	Your proposal offers a contribution to the literature. You have a research question and some connection to previous work. You have a minimum of 10 citations.	Your proposal offers some contribution to the literature. You have some connection to previous work. You have a minimum of 10 citations.
Data	Your data is reasonable and is set up to answer your research question. All research tools are provided. Your data collection methods are novel.	Your data may answer the research question. Research tools are provided. Your data collection methods are clear and established.	You have reasonable data collection methods. Some research tools are provided.
IRB	You have completed IRB training and all paperwork. Your proposal is ready to submit.	You have completed IRB training and have the material to complete the paperwork.	You have the material to complete IRB paperwork.

Option 3 Grades	A	A-	B+
Artifacts	You have substantial artifacts for a larger multi-week project. Classes are designed in detail and artifacts are provided for all areas of class.	You have artifacts to cover at minimum a week-long project. Reasonable artifacts are provided to cover most class time.	You have artifacts to cover at minimum a week-long project. Some artifacts are provided.
Reflection	You have carefully explained how teaching materials and lessons are providing connections to writing transfer for your students. Details and examples are given.	You have explained how your pedagogy helps to facilitate writing transfer. Examples are given.	You have explained somewhat how your pedagogy helps to facilitate writing transfer.
Connection	You connect your pedagogy deeply and substantially to writing transfer theory and research. A minimum of 15 citations connect directly to points you are making.	You connect your pedagogy to writing transfer theory and research. A minimum of 10 citations connect to your pedagogy.	You cite a minimum of 10 scholars who have a connection to your pedagogy.

Presentations

Application Project presentations are short and informal. Each person has no more than 6 minutes to present their project and about 4 minutes for questions. Application projects presentations are ungraded: If you complete the presentation, you get full credit.

Due Date

- Application Project ideas are due on **April 3rd**
- Application Project early drafts are due **April 15th**
- Application Project full drafts are due on **April 29th**
- Application Project presentations are on **April 29th** and **May 1st**
- Application Project revision drafts are due on **May 8th**