

ENG 1510

Writing & Rhetoric I



Writing Project 2 (WP2): What is Discourse?

Summary

For this assignment, you will need to find a new community to join. You will then analyze the discourse to make a claim about the community

Basic Requirements

The first and final drafts need to be a minimum of **1500 words** and include visuals and links

Due Dates

- **First drafts** of WP2 are due on **Thursday, October 22nd**
- **Final drafts** of WP2 are due on **Tuesday, November 3rd**

Learning Objectives

The purpose of WP2 is to build on learning in the following areas:

- Analyzing Discourse.
- Effectively investigating and joining discourse communities.
- Gathering primary evidence through observation and testing theories.
- Building and supporting a single claim.
- Organizing and presenting ideas effectively.
- Incorporating visual modes and links into written text.

First Draft Basics

The basics are the minimum requirements for this assignment. First drafts will be scored on your understanding of 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 as 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** about your discourse community. The claim should focus on **what the community values in good discourse**. Your claim should be:
 - Clear and stated directly early in the paper.
 - Both surprising and unique. That is to say, it should not be something obvious about the community, and it should not be something that applies to many communities.
 - Supported with evidence, such as quotes, links, screen captures, interviews, etc.
- 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 paper. The point is to make and support a claim, not to document your observations.
- Include at least one visual (a screen capture, for example) and at least one link (to a representative post, for example).

First Draft Basics (Continued)

- Write your paper for an *interested 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 draft in Google Drive and share it with me and your peer revision group. Your file should be named with your name, your class (including days and time), and the assignment (i.e. Malcolm Reynolds ENG 1510 TTh 9 am WP2).

Final Draft Grading Criteria

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

- **Selection of community:** Your community is new to you, reasonably sized, active, and used-focused.
- **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 that is articulated early in the paper. The claim is surprising and unique, and it 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.
- **Connection between evidence and claim:** All of the evidence is clearly connected to the claim. You explain why the evidence supports your claim.
- **Inclusion of visual and link:** At least one visual and one link are included. These are effectively placed, explained, and carefully chosen.
- **Organization:** You have organized your paper into paragraphs that focus on a single topic. Paragraphs are written and ordered to help your reader understand well. You provide an introduction that introduces the community and what they value in discourse. You provide a conclusion that summarizes your main points.
- **Attention to assignment:** Your final draft meets the word count, is shared in Google Drive, and is appropriately named. You have written your paper for an interested audience.
- **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 meet or exceed expectations for all 10 criteria. You may have minor problems in a single criterion.
- B: You have minor problems for more than 1 criterion. You have no major problems for any criteria.
- C: You have a major problem for at least 1 criterion or minor problems for more than half of the criteria.
- D: You have major problems for more than 3 criteria and do not meet the basic expectations for the assignment.
- F: You have major problems for more than half of the criteria and fall well below the basic expectations for the assignment.