

ENG 1510

Writing & Rhetoric I



WP2: Exploring New Discourse



Whenever you learn to write or communicate in a new context, you must learn a new discourse. The discourse might build on discourses you already know, or it might be mostly new to you. For WP2, you will find a new community to join, and you will analyze the discourse they use to communicate. You will use what you've learned about their discourse to make a focused claim about the community's discourse.

Learning Objectives

- To analyze discourse.
- To learn what to look for in discourse when entering a new discourse community.
- To effectively investigate and join a new discourse community.
- To gather primary evidence through observation and testing theories.
- To build and support a claim with evidence.
- To curate data.
- To organize and present ideas effectively.
- To incorporate multiple modes into communication.

Length and Content Requirements

- First and final drafts must be a minimum of 1800 words or the multimodal equivalent.
- All projects must include at least one mode other than written text.
- You cannot use the same form as WP1.

Due Dates

- First Drafts: October 24th.
- Final Drafts: November 5th.

Submission

- Please submit your first 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 1510 WP2").
- 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'll 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're new to you. If you don't know how to make the content you want, ask!

Basics

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

- Choose a single discourse community to focus on. The community you choose must be reasonably sized, active, user-focused, and *new to you*. You cannot choose a community that you already belong to.
- Observe the community thoroughly by reading, watching, asking questions, interviewing, and eventually participating. You should *take thorough notes* and *take many screen captures or photos* during your observation. Remember, in many spaces, things may be deleted without warning. If you don't document your observations, you may never be able to find those specific examples again.
- Please note: observing and taking notes is a big part of the project, but most of your notes will not end up in your final project. Your notes are to help you create claims, but it may take several hours of observation before you know what you're looking for. Take notes even for things that you think you won't need, as it's likely that your claim will shift throughout the process. You may need those notes later!
- Make a clear and convincing claim or closely related series of claim related to the discourse of your community. Your claim(s) should be:
 - Clearly and directly stated early in the project.
 - Surprising. This means that your claim should not be obvious to a casual observer. If you can make your claim *before* observing, it's a bad claim.
 - Unique: This means that your claim should not apply to other spaces. If you can make the same claim about several other spaces in the class, it's a bad claim.
- Support your claim(s) with evidence that is directly tied to your claim. This means you'll need to choose evidence from your observations carefully. Evidence that doesn't directly support your claim should not be included. Evidence may include quotes, links, screen captures, interviews, and so on.
- Direct your project to an interested but novice audience: someone who wants to join your discourse community but is not already a member. This means that may be required to explain some ideas necessary to understand your claims and evidence.

Grading

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

Expectations	Exceeded	Met	Not Met
Focus	You stay focused entirely on your community. You do not include information about unrelated topics or contexts.	You stay focused on your community.	You get side-tracked. You include information about other contexts or include irrelevant information.

Grading (Continued)

Expectations	Exceeded	Met	Not Met
Central Claim(s)	You have a central claim stated clearly early in the project. The claim is surprising and unique. The claim helps readers to understand the space in a new way.	You have a central claim stated early in the project. The claim is surprising and unique.	You do not have a clear or obvious claim, or the claim is not surprising and unique.
Evidence	You use clear evidence from your community to support your claim. There is enough evidence to make your claim more convincing.	You use evidence to support your claim. There is enough evidence to make your claim plausible.	You do not use evidence to support your claim, or the evidence is inadequate to make your claim plausible.
Selection of Evidence	Your evidence is strongly in support of your claim and representative of the activity in your community.	Your evidence supports your claim and adequately represents your community.	Your evidence does not support your claim and/or misrepresents the community.
Demonstration of Value	You demonstrate how the evidence you use represents very popular or respected principles of the community.	You demonstrate how the evidence you use has been valued by the community.	You use evidence that is not particularly valued by the community. It may be an outlier or even very unpopular within the community.
Audience	Your project is created for an interested but novice audience. You explain your ideas fully so that someone unfamiliar can still understand them.	Your project is created for an interested but novice audience.	Your project is either too overly technical or too general for the audience.
Introduction	You introduce your readers to your community in a clear and interesting way.	You introduce your readers to your community.	You do not introduce your readers to your community fully. They may not fully understand what the community is.

Grading (Continued)

Expectations	Exceeded	Met	Not Met
Multimodal Elements	You use a form that helps you express your points clearly. You have tried something beyond a traditional paper, even if the execution is not perfect. You have used a form <i>different</i> than WP1.	You both include and integrate multimodal elements well. You use at least three non-linguistic examples.	You do not include at least three multimodal elements, include irrelevant elements, or do not integrate the elements that are included.
Manuscript Preparation	You respond well to peers' comments and my comments. You have made a strong effort to improve your writing based on the comments.	You respond well to most of your peers' and my comments. You have made some effort to improve your writing based on the comments.	You have not responded to your peers' comments or my comments fully. Only minimal effort is made to improve.
Attention to Assignment	You meet the basic requirements of the assignment, including 1800-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.	You are not close to the basic requirements of the assignment.

Your grade for WP2 will be determined by how well you meet the above criteria.

- A You exceed the expectations for more than seven of the criteria. All others are met.
- B You exceed the expectations for two to six of the criteria. All others are met.
- C You meet the expectations for all of the criteria.
- D You do not meet the expectations for one to three of the criteria. All others are met.
- F You do not meet the expectations for more than three of the criteria.