ENG 1510
Writing & Rhetoric I

OHIO UNIVERSITY

WP1: Exploring Familiar Discourse

To know what we need to learn, we first have to understand what we already know. WP1 is designed to help you demonstrate what you have learned from writing you've done in the past. You'll be asked to choose a specific context in which you've written and in which you understand the discourse well. Try to choose a context that you think your classmates *won't* know as well as you. Explain how writing is done and how other meaning is made in that context to your peers.

Learning Objectives

- To understand how writing and discourse are used in multiple contexts.
- To understand various aspects of discourse in those contexts.
- To make concrete claims and support those claims with evidence.
- To gather primary evidence from your own experience.
- To organize and present ideas effectively.
- To incorporate multiple modes into communication.

Length and Content Requirements

- All drafts must be a minimum of 1200 words or the multimodal equivalent.
- All projects must include at least one mode other than written text.

Due Dates

- Completion Draft: September 17th
- Final Drafts: October 1st

Submission

- Please submit your completion 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 WP1").
- 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 will 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. Completion drafts will be graded solely on your understanding of the basics.

- Choose a single context to explore writing and discourse. The context should be one that you already have a strong understanding of how to make and interpret meaning. Your context might be something like a part-time job, a place you've volunteered, a group affiliation (such as a sports team or religious group), a hobby (such as collecting or making things), an entertainment interest (such as a specific TV show, video game, or type of music), or a specific app or website (such as Snapchat, Instagram, or TikTok).
- Choose a space that you know well but that you think others will not already be familiar with. For example, the discourse of Facebook or the discourse of OU would be poor choices because most (if not all) of the class will already be familiar with the discourse of these spaces. Try to choose a space that you can *teach* others about.
- Explore how people in that context use writing and other discourse to make meaning. Pay special attention to language features (such as special vocabulary and grammar) but also visuals, symbols, gestures, sounds, and other ways that people make meaning in the context.
- Specifically consider what it takes to show you are an "insider" in the space through your use of language and discourse. What could someone say or do to let you know they know the context well?
- Use specific examples of writing or discourse. You do not have to explain everything, but instead try to find representative examples. Use (and explain) things such as screen captures, videos, audio recordings, quoted texts, and anecdotes to help you make your points.
- Direct your project to an interested but novice audience: someone who wants to know how to join the context you are describing but does not know how to yet.

Grading

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

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

2

Grading (Continued)

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Claim	You make a clear and direct claim about your discourse context. The claim helps to organize your project.	You make a clear and direct claim about your discourse context.	You do not make a claim about your discourse context, or the claim is vague and/or hard to find.
Explanation of Writing and Discourse	You explain what is important and unique about the discourse within your context. This explanation is clear and concise.	You explain what is important about your discourse context.	You do not fully explain what is important about your discourse context. It is unclear what features are critical to learn.
Specific Practices	You point to several specific discourse practices that are unique to your context and explain how they're unique.	You point to some specific discourse practices and explain them.	You either point to no specific discourse practices or do not explain them.
Multimodal Practices	At least two of the specific practices you mention include more than written or spoken language. You clearly explain how others get meaning from these practices.	At least one of the specific practices you mention includes more than written or spoken language.	All practices involve only written or spoken language.
Specific Examples	You use specific examples of discourse in use that help your readers better understand how specific practices are really used.	You use examples of discourse in use.	You do not offer clear examples of how discourse is used in practice.
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.

Grading (Continued)

Expectations	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
Introduction	You introduce your readers to your context in a clear and interesting way.	You introduce your readers to your context.	You do not introduce your readers to your context fully. They may not fully understand what the context is.
Organization	You have organized your project into segments in a logical way. Similar ideas are placed together. Ideas are placed in a way that makes them easier to understand.	You have organized your project in a logical way.	Your organization interferes with understanding your points. Similar ideas are separate or ideas are ordered in a way that makes them hard to understand.
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 both include and integrate multimodal elements well.	You do not include 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 1200-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.

Grading (Continued)

Your grade for WP1 will be determined by the criteria above. A "not met" cancels out one "exceptional."

		# Exceptional	# Met	# Not Met
A	100	12	0	0
	97.5	11	1	0
	95	10	2	0
A-	92.5	9	3	0
	90	8	4	0
B+	88.5	7	5	0
	87	6	6	0
B	85	5	7	0
	83	4	8	0
B-	80	3	9	0
C+	78.5	2	10	0
C	75	1	11	0
	73	0	12	0
C-	70	0	11	1
D+	68.5	0	10	2
D	65	0	9	3
D-	60	0	8	4