

ENGL 103

Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois
University

WP3: Making Local Change

Description

Taking what you have learned about writing and rhetoric, you and two to three other students will create a text persuading a local audience to take action on an issue directly related to your life. This text must address a specific problem your group sees in your home or university community, and it must address people who can act to solve that problem. The text may take several forms depending on what you think is most convincing for your audience. For example, it may be a video, an infographic, a slide presentation, or a physical binder of documents. Your group is encouraged to present this text to the real audience, but you are not required to do so. At the end of the project, your group will write a reflection explaining the rhetorical choices in your persuasive text, and each member will write a report detailing challenges and successes in your collaboration.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify specific problems that can be solved through writing.
- Argue that a problem is worth solving.
- Attempt to solve above problems by influencing real people.
- Meet the rhetorical situation necessary to influence your audience.
- Mindfully make and reflect on rhetorical choices within that rhetorical situation.
- Further build on strategies for planning and revising writing.

Requirements

Choosing a Local Issue

The issue your group chooses must be one that relates directly to your daily life at home or at the university. It must be small enough to address in the timeframe but substantial enough to affect more than just your group members.

Proposals & Group Contracts

Before you begin work on your project, you must write a proposal in which you detail what your problem is, how you will convince your audience, and what solution you will propose. As part of your proposal, you will also provide a detailed group contract that explains in detail what need to be done for the project and which group member is responsible for that portion. Each portion must have a due date and how it will be submitted to the other group members.

Arguing for the Problem

A major portion of your project will be convincing your audience that the problem is real *and* that it needs to be solved. You'll use primary and/or secondary sources to demonstrate this.

Providing a Solution

You should provide one or more possible solution to your problem. The problem should be reasonable and any costs should be justified in your documents.

Reflection & Group Evaluation

Reflections are a major part of WP3. Your group should write a reflection detailing how your approach will convince your specific audience that the problem is real, it needs a solution, and your solution will work. Each individual member will also complete a group evaluation in which you evaluate your own and your group members' contributions to the project. Group evaluations should directly reference the group contract.

Submission

Please submit your project through OneDrive. Both the project and the group reflection should be submitted together when possible. Group evaluations should be emailed to me individually. Please approve any alternative methods to submit your materials 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 WP3 draft 1 would name their file: 103.08_MalcolmReynolds_wp3.1

Due Dates

- Proposals and group contracts are due on **Thursday, April 20th**
- Completion drafts are due on **Tuesday, May 2nd**
- Revision drafts are due on **Thursday, May 4th**

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 a local issue	You have chosen an issue that affects either your home or the university community. The issue should be small enough to take on for this project, but it must affect more than your group members.
Identifying an audience	You have identified an audience that can act on your issue directly. The audience should have the power to make the change you are proposing and must be able to receive your arguments.
Explain the issue	You have explained why the issue is real and why it should be solved. You provide primary and/or secondary evidence when helpful.
Offer a solution	You have explained at least one possible solution for the issue. You provide primary and/or secondary evidence when helpful.
Provide a reflection	You have included a reflection as part of your draft that explains how the choices you made in your project will influence your audience to take action on the issue.

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. Choosing an Issue	You have chosen a local issue that has bearing on improving your community.	You have chosen a local issue that is reasonable for the project.	The issue chosen is not local, is much too large for the project, or affects only a very small number of people.
2. Identifying an Audience	You have identified an audience who has the power to make the change you are proposing.	You have identified a reasonable audience for your project.	The identified audience cannot take action on your issue.

3. Arguing for the Issue	You have convincingly argued why your issue is a problem and why it should be solved.	You have adequately argued why your issue is a problem and why it should be solved.	It is not clear why your issue is a problem and/or why it should be solved.
4. Providing Issue Evidence	You have provided substantial and convincing primary and/or secondary evidence to argue for your issue.	You have provided adequate primary and/or secondary evidence to argue for your issue.	No evidence is provided or the evidence provided does not demonstrate the issue is a problem or that it should be solved.
5. Providing a Solution	You have provided a well thought out solution for your problem.	You have provided a reasonable solution for your problem.	The solution is not provided or is not reasonable for the situation.
6. Providing Solution Evidence	You have provided substantial and convincing primary and/or secondary evidence to argue for your solution.	You have provided adequate primary and/or secondary evidence to argue for your solution.	No evidence is provided or the evidence provided does not support the solution.
7. Influencing Your Audience	You have carefully built your project to influence your specific audience.	You have attempted to influence your audience in your project.	The project does not appear to be designed to influence your specific audience.
8. Explaining How Your Audience was Influenced	In your reflection, you have convincingly explained ways in which you have attempted to influence your audience. You have used clear examples.	In your reflection, you have explained ways in which you have attempted to influence your audience.	The reflection is not provided, or it does not explain ways in which you have influenced your audience.
9. Explaining the Form of Your Project	In your reflection, you have clearly explained the form of your project and how that form works best to influence your audience.	In your reflection, you have explained the form of your project and why that form is best for your situation.	The reflection is not provided, or it does not explain the form of your project.

10. Providing Group Evaluations	You have provided a group evaluation reflection that explains in detail each members' contributions to the project and evaluates their performance.	You have provided a group evaluation reflection that explains each members' contributions to the project.	The group evaluation reflection is not provided or does not clearly explain members' contributions.
11. 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
12. 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
13. BONUS: Sending Your Project	You have sent your project to your audience and provided proof of the audience's receipt.	--	--