

# ENG 7980

## History and Theories of Composition



### Context Project



The articles we are reading this semester are part of much larger conversations taking place in both the field and in the culture at large. The context project is designed to help us take a look at that larger context. For this project, you will choose a single reading from the schedule. Then, you will explore the conversations that the reading was and is a part of: what articles, books, and/or political and social events influenced the reading, and what articles, books, and/or political and social events were influenced by the reading. You will write a short report summarizing your findings and will present your findings to the class in a short informal presentation.

### Objectives

- To understand the conversations that took and are taking place in the field.
- To understand the nature of academic conversations.
- To get a deeper understanding of the contexts that result in certain composition philosophies.
- To get a greater sense of the situated nature of academic texts.

### Requirements

- Reports must be a minimum of 1200 words or the multimodal equivalent.
- Presentations should be between 3 and 5 minutes.

### Due Date

- Both the report and the presentation will be due on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

### Additional Requirements and Tips

- Articles will be chosen today. You can only change to a different article with approval.
- It's not required to choose an article from your Expansion Project topic, but you're certainly allowed to do so. The two projects are designed to be complementary.
- Read the abstracts and skim the articles that are part of the conversation. The point is to get a sense of the conversation, and you won't be able to do this from titles alone.
- Again, written reports are not summaries. The point is to present a larger conversation. What was happening that led to this point? What was the result afterward?
- Reports should be submitted in Google Drive as a Google Doc (not as a Word doc or PDF). Multimodal projects can be submitted as a file in Google Drive or as a link in a Google Doc. Please name your document with your name, the class, and the specific assignment: e.g. "Malcolm Reynolds ENG 7980 Context Project."

## Grading

The following criteria will be used to determine grades for the Context Project:

Expectations	Exceeded	Met	Not Met
Depth of Conversation	You present a deep and reflective look at how the articles/events lead into one another. The connections go beyond superficial connections of topics.	You present connections between articles and events.	Articles/events are not connected or connected only superficially.
Breadth of Conversation	You provide a large number of articles and events that influenced the article or were influenced by it.	You provide a minimum of 3 influences and 3 things that were influenced by the article.	You provide fewer than 3 influences and/or 3 things that were influenced by the article.
Use of Specific Examples	You use specific examples from the articles or events that present the connection clearly and directly.	You use examples from the articles or events that present a connection.	You do not use examples from the articles or events or use them only superficially.
Form	The form of the report helps to make the information clearer. The writer has used a unique or engaging design.	N/A	N/A
Presentation	You give a good overview of the conversations that took or are taking place surrounding your article. You are able to answer questions effectively and clearly.	You provide an overview of the conversations that took place or are taking place surrounding your article. You are able to answer some questions.	You are not able to provide a clear overview of the conversations that took place or are taking place surrounding your article, and/or you cannot answer questions about the conversations.

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

- A You exceed the expectations for two or more of the criteria. All others are met.
- A- You exceed the expectations for one of the criteria. All others are met.
- B+ You meet the expectations for all of the criteria.
- B You do not meet the expectations for one of the criteria. All others are met.
- B- You do not meet the expectations for two of the criteria. All others are met.