

English 1005 Assignment Sequence

Paper #1: Narrative about a Discourse Community

Overview

Narratives are a significant way of making sense of the world. As we discussed in Writing Ourselves - Drafting Our Stories, we build a sense of self by constructing narratives about ourselves. By reflecting on personal experiences, we can gain insights and communicate them effectively and meaningfully. Narrative writing is also a powerful and engaging tool because it employs storytelling techniques that resonate and connect with readers. If we want to explain to someone else what happened, what we did, what we learned, and why it matters, narrative writing is often the best genre to choose. Narratives capture the reader's attention, connect with the reader at an emotional and empathetic level, and encourage both the writer and reader to think critically about experiences in a thoughtful and effective way.

For this assignment, you may choose to write about the topic you used in the previous free-writing paragraph or select a different event—it's entirely up to you. The goal is to reflect on an experience you've had with a discourse community, which linguist John Swales defines as "groups that have goals or purposes and use communication to achieve these goals." These communities can include a wide range of groups or organizations, each using language in specific ways to define themselves, build trust, create a sense of belonging, and maintain cohesion. As you write, try to recall not just what happened, but also what you saw, heard, smelled, and felt during the experience. To keep your writing focused and effective, concentrate on one specific scene or event rather than covering a long period of time or multiple occurrences. This focused approach will help streamline your writing as we move forward.

Why This Assignment?

This assignment is designed to help you understand how writing functions as a tool for invention, allowing you to generate ideas and recall details about your experiences. It offers an opportunity to explore your own history and identity as a writer, while also giving you a sense of how writing is shaped by the rhetorical situation—including genre (reflection), audience (yourself, your classmates, and your instructor), and purpose (to recall and perhaps entertain). At the same time, it is important to understand what a discourse community is and how it operates. This knowledge will deepen your appreciation for the perspectives of your college instructors as they teach within their own academic discourse communities, each with its own writing expectations, values, and types of knowledge. By recognizing and adapting to these diverse communities, you can become a more informed, flexible, and effective communicator in both academic and other settings.

Rhetorical Situation

Audience: The primary audience is your peers and instructor of the class

Purpose: To practice with narrative writing and to carefully consider the role that discourse communities have had in shaping you as a writer and as a person

Genre: Narrative Essay

Stance: Informal

Constraints:

- 2–3 pages in length
- Use MLA format

Assignment Guidelines

Write a 2–3-page narrative essay detailing your experience as a new participant in a discourse community of your choosing. It is important to understand what a discourse community is and how it works. This understanding will help you appreciate the perspective of your college teachers when they teach about their own academic discourse communities. These communities include specific writing expectations, values, and types of knowledge that vary across different fields and disciplines. By understanding these communities, you can become more informed, flexible, and effective as a communicator in these and other new discourse communities.

Some community suggestions to get you started:

- A knitting group that meets once a week in downtown Provo at Heindselman's Yarn.
- Hobby mechanics who watch the YouTube channel HOWSTUFFINMYCARWORKS and comment on videos to share advice and ask questions.
- Participants in women's weightlifting classes at Orangetheory
- Dental hygienists in a dentist's office
- A subreddit forum on a specific topic
- Links to an external site.
- (e.g., book recommendations for fantasy fiction, Taylor Swift fan forum, computer science careers, watercolor painting, keto diet, bears in captivity, D&D gaming, etc.)
- Membership in a local volleyball/soccer/tennis team OR a past high school team/group
- Participation in Comicon, live action or tabletop role-playing game community
- Learning to play the guitar with a teacher or through an online community
- Volunteering at Utah Pride Center
- Waiting tables at Olive Garden or any other particular restaurant
- Working a retail job (e.g., Wal-Mart, Soel Boutique, or Zumies)

For this narrative, tell your reader in story form how you joined the community, what that experience was like, and what you learned about yourself and the community. Use effective storytelling techniques to narrate your experience:

- One or two specific events or scenes
- Distinct beginning, middle, and end
- Strong detail
- Dialogue examples
- Suspense and tension
- Point of view

In addition, as you reflect on your involvement within the community by telling your story, weave two or three of the following aspects into your narrative essay that best address the community you've chosen:

- **How did you enter this group or community?**
What made you want to join it, and what did you do to become part of it?
- **What kind of language or ways of communicating do members use?**
Are there special words, phrases, or ways of talking that are common in the group?
- **What are the group's values or beliefs?**
What does this community care about? What behaviors or ideas are seen as normal or important?
- **How did you get involved with other members?**
What did you do to take part, help out, or interact with people in the group?
- **What went well, and what was hard?**
Were there any problems or things you struggled with? Looking back, is there anything you would change?
- **Even if things didn't go perfectly, what did you learn or gain?**
How was your time in the group meaningful, even if you faced challenges or didn't fully become a member?
- **Why does this experience matter?**
How has being part of this group changed how you think about the topic or helped you in school, work, or life in general?

Submitting Your Work

Save your document and submit it to Canvas.

Paper #2: Writing a Summary, Reviewing a Text

Overview

For this assignment, you will focus on the same discourse community you wrote about in your narrative, but instead of telling another story, you'll choose an article or essay related to that community. The goal is to read the text carefully, understand the writer's argument, and explain it clearly to an audience of your choice. You'll summarize the main points, examine the evidence and appeals the writer uses, and describe how the argument is made. Finally, you'll give your opinion on the text—either recommending it or not—based on your findings.

Why This Assignment?

This assignment encourages you to consider how the words and ideas of other writers might be received by people of a community you are familiar with, and how they might respond. As you'll be dealing with someone else's words, you'll have to make sure you fully understand the writer's argument and all the details of the text, which will likely involve re-reading. Also, writing about the same community but in a different genre and for a different audience will help you to understand how writing works differently across genres and rhetorical situations. Here you'll write to introduce an article you want to discuss and to make a recommendation. Lastly you will learn to evaluate a text for an audience without necessarily giving it a simple "thumbs up or down" opinion.

Rhetorical Situation

Audience: Members of your chosen community

Purpose: To summarize fairly and provide a recommendation of an article or essay about that community

Genres: Summary and Review

Stance: Your call – serious, sympathetic, humorous, argumentative, etc.

Constraints:

- Use MLA style and formatting (Double-space, 1 inch margins, header with last name and page number).
- 2–3 pages

Assignment Guidelines

- Give Background: Share key info about the text, the author, and the topic.
- Understand the Text: Read closely and explain the main ideas and how the author builds them.
- Know Your Audience: Choose who you are writing for and keep their needs in mind.
- State Your Point: Clearly say what your paper is about (your main idea).
- Summarize Clearly: Accurately explain the author's main points and how they support them (evidence, logic, examples).
- Check Credibility: Look at how the author shows they can be trusted. What sources do they use?
- Look at Emotions: Notice if the author tries to make the reader feel something or appeal to their values.

- Use Quotes Well: Use quotes or paraphrases from the text in your paper, and blend them in smoothly.
- Give Your Opinion: Say if you recommend the text or not. Explain why, using examples from the text.
- Be Fair: Think about how your review might affect others. Review respectfully.

Midterm Portfolio

Overview

Up to this point, you have received complete / incomplete Active Learning points for meeting the basic requirements and turning a first draft of your work in on time. Now, you will prepare your work for submitting the Midterm portfolio for a letter grade. This portfolio is worth 30% of your final grade, so you'll want to be sure that you have taken time to look closely at all feedback, comments and suggestions, and make significant revisions before submitting.

- Give concerted attention to the revision and editing process.
- Review the various assignments you've completed for this module and focus on **revising, editing and proofreading** in preparation for submitting your Midterm Portfolio.
- You are expected to revise all documents before you submit for a grade.

Why This Assignment?

Revising and editing your work is an important part of the writing process. Assembling your work into a portfolio teaches you about the process, but it is also a task that may transfer into many other areas of your life. As you revise, edit, and proofread, you'll gain new insights about your own writing process, as well as practice shaping and revisiting your writing. You may be surprised at how much your writing has developed during the semester and how well you are able to apply your rhetorical knowledge to this task.

Assignment Guidelines

- Format all work as instructed.
- Submit revised and edited files of each of the documents listed below.
- Please include only one Doc for each assignment.

Midterm Portfolio Required Documents: Two Essays

1. Narrative About a Discourse Community
2. Writing a Summary, Reviewing a Text

Submitting Your Work

- Upload your documents to Canvas
- You can upload multiple files to the same assignment. Once you attach one document, attach another, and then submit once you have attached all files.
 - Alternatively, drag and drop each document one at a time, and then submit once you have completed attaching all files.

Paper #3: Analyzing a Text

Overview

For this assignment, you'll be drawing on the resources you've found on the Internet to compose an analysis of an article you find related to your topic and discourse community. You should already have at least two possible articles to choose from based on work done during your previous assignment, "Writing a Summary, Reviewing a Text." You are also free to choose a new article and may want to review the previous "[Finding Good Texts](#)" assignment to refresh your memory.

This essay will be a formal analysis paper, written to describe how your article functions and how the author persuades the audience.

Why This Assignment?

An analysis paper sets out to answer a basic question: *how does this thing work?* To analyze something is to explain how it functions, how it accomplishes its goals, or how it sets out to do something.

In this case, we are doing a specific type of analysis, a rhetorical analysis. Remember that rhetoric is an art of persuasion. So, if analysis is about explaining "how," and rhetoric is about persuasion, then a rhetorical analysis will set out to explain how something persuades.

Here, you are going to find an article related to your topic and discourse community. You'll then explain how that article persuades its audience. Working in this genre will help you with future papers as analysis is a task common to many college classes. It will also help you understand how writers use rhetorical strategies in order to persuade their audiences.

Remember! Your paper is not a comment on whether or not you like the article. Instead, you are being asked to analyze the author's use of the appeals. To write this analysis, we will work at composing in parts before we put them together as a whole.

The Parts of the Analysis Will Look Like This:

1. Structuring the Introduction

- Begin with an appeal to pathos: Tell your story.
- Focus our attention: Follow up your story by shifting our attention to the article that you'll be analyzing.
 - Use a signal phrase to identify the genre, author, purpose, and context.
 1. For example, "One particular article touches on the issue of sports betting. Matthew Berry's recent article, 'Early Look at 2027 Super Bowl Odds' discusses..."
 2. Briefly summarize the article (At this point you are not yet discussing the appeals; this will take place in the body of your paper.)
- End with a thesis statement that makes a claim about how the author uses appeals to speak to the audience. It's okay for this statement to be very tentative.
 - Berry relies on logos, as well as the emotional appeal, in order to suggest that _____.

2. Structuring the Analysis

- Your analysis will then proceed to show HOW the article works. In order to do so, you will focus on structuring your paragraphs using the MEAL plan.
 - Main Idea (or Claim): The author uses _____ in order to accomplish _____.
 - Evidence: For example, she writes _____.
 - Analysis: This is important because _____.
 - Link: In using this, we can see that _____.
- You will focus on different rhetorical appeals that we have discussed in class. Among them might be:
 - Assertions
 1. What claim or argument is this author making?
 2. Why would the author make this assertion?
 3. What would be the opposite assertion?
 - Knowledge and Community
 1. What do you need to know in order to be able to understand this article?
 2. How does this article appeal to the discourse community?
 - Emotional Appeals
 1. What emotions does the author appeal to?
 2. What benefit does the emotional appeal give the author?
 - Credibility
 1. How does the author make himself/herself credible?
 2. Why would an audience believe what this author has to say?

3. Structuring the Conclusion with “So What?”

- Why is any of this important?
- What does this tell us about the appeals?
- Does understanding how appeals work change the way a viewer will read them? Does it make a reader...
 - Less likely to be manipulated?
 - Think more about how public arguments work?
 - Demonstrate the way authors are over-reliant on certain appeals?
 - Aware that authors try to sell you values or lifestyles more than a product?

Paper #4: Project Proposal

Overview

All the work you've done over the course of the semester culminates in this assignment, your proposal to a would be sponsor or community partner.

To complete your proposal, draw from your previous assignments. This is literally an assemblage of all your previous assignments, revised and polished.

Why This Assignment?

The project proposal pulls together skills and concepts you've been practicing throughout the semester. It allows you to synthesize your research efforts, writing, and visual rhetoric into persuasive texts that motivate your chosen audience to take action. More importantly this assignment is an opportunity to experience your writing as relevant, to understand the power of composition to create positive change in the world through writing.

Rhetorical Situation

Audience: Your Choice: A sponsor or community partner.

Purpose: To outline your ideas and persuade the sponsor to support you in carrying out your ideas

Genre: Project Proposal

Stance: Formal

Context: A formal presentation to your sponsor

Formatting: Use standard MLA formatting, including 1-inch margins, 12-point font, and double-spacing

The Structure

The written proposal will be a 4–5-page, well-researched formal proposal that consists of 5 major parts:

1. **The Introduction:** Introduce the General Topic, using two or more appeals
2. **The Problem:** Narrow the focus identifying a more specific underlying issue related to the larger problem
3. **The Project Plan:** Provide details about your proposed project, when, where, what, and how it should be organized. Include a method for evaluating the project's success.
4. **Implications:** Consider what it is you hope to accomplish and how you expect your target audience to benefit if you are successful in carrying out your proposed project.
5. Remember to include a **Works Cited** or **References** list. Also remember to include **parenthetical in-text citations**.

Assignment Guidelines

Consider your audience:

It's important to remember that you are not writing your proposal to your instructor. Instead, you are writing to a potential sponsor. Remember, you are not writing a research report but rather a proposal. The purpose is to persuade the sponsor to use your project idea.

Introduction: Introduce the General Topic, using two or more appeals.

Avoid beginning with statements of opinion or sharing your thoughts on the topic, instead, use an appeal that demonstrates your personal investment followed by an appeal to logos or ethos.

(Reference your Topic That Matters Proposal and Your Annotated Bibliography)

- An appeal to pathos: A short story about you or someone else that illustrates the importance of this issue
- An appeal to logos: A statement, fact, or statistic that illustrates the significance of this topic
- An appeal to ethos: A quotation from an important person—preferably someone your sponsor might respect (an expert, someone with experience with this topic, a reference to research)

Problem Statement: Narrowing the Topic

Once you've introduced the topic, narrow the focus by writing a bit about what you see as a potential problem related to your topic. This problem is the exigence (urgent need) for the project. In other words, it establishes the reason for your project. Make a claim about the specific problem and support your claims with strong appeals to logos and ethos. Reference two or three articles you located in your research to help support the claims that you are making about the problem. Again avoid making statements about the problem that you don't back up with some evidence.

One of a few well-developed paragraphs might look something like this:

While learning to ski can be difficult, children that are introduced to the sport early are likely to pick it up easier as adults. “In the article, “Is Skiing for Kids?” author, Michael Jones states, “Children are capable of learning to ski soon after they begin to walk, and by elementary school, students who have been introduced to the sport show an even greater interest in it.” Jones’ statement suggests that it is not an inability to learn or a lack of interest. The problem is that few children have had the opportunity to know about it” (34). Skiing is expensive, so children coming from lower income families may not ever have the opportunity to learn how to ski.

Include In-text Citations

MLA in-text Citations indicate the author’s name and page (Smith 4). APA in-text citations indicate author's name, the year of publication and the page number (Field, 2005, p. 14). The author's name can be omitted if you've referenced the author in the paragraph.

Project Plan

(Reference the Project Plan)

Avoid language such as “my project...”; instead write about how you would like to contribute to meeting the need or solving the problem. What is it you are proposing that can help address this problem, a brochure; write a radio script; write an article for the newspaper; write a research paper; design a research study; develop a presentation.

For Example: “I believe we can address [identify the problem] by developing/ creating/ composing/ writing ... then outline the goals and objectives, including details about when, where, how, and what will be included.

Implications

What exactly do you expect to accomplish? Be specific here!

Works Cited/References Page

Don’t forget those hanging indents!

Submitting the Assignment

Once complete, save your assignment and submit it through Canvas.

Reflection Letter

Overview

As part of your portfolio, you will include one last letter, a reflection, discussing this class. However, instead of writing the letter to me, I want you to imagine you are writing to a younger brother, sister, cousin, friend, or someone along those lines. Imagine that they are getting ready to take this class. Then, write to that person using the guidelines below. This short letter is part of your portfolio grade.

Why This Assignment?

This a 2–3- page letter is an opportunity to reflect on what you have learned this semester.

Rhetorical Situation

Audience: A younger relative or friend who is getting ready to take English 1005

Purpose: To demonstrate that you have achieved the learning objectives outlined for this course

Genre: Letter, 2–3 pages, double spaced, 12 pt. font

Stance: Informal

Medium: Electronic Submission

Assignment Guidelines

Consider the following questions:

- What do you wish you had known before taking this class? What would you want to tell them about what they should know? Consider what you thought you knew about writing in college, learning, literacy, rhetoric, and other issues.
- What do you wish you had done better or differently in this class?
- What parts of the class do you feel you were best at?
- What parts of the class do you feel you were worst at?
- Pick two or three course objectives you want to focus on:
 - Try explaining what that objective means for the audience.
 - How did you understand that objective?
- How might this course affect the way you and your audience think about writing in the future?

Submitting the Assignment

Once complete, save your work and submit it through Canvas.

Final Portfolio

Overview

The purpose of this portfolio is to provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have acquired over the course of the semester. The culminating project for the semester is a written proposal and reflection.

This portfolio is worth 35% of your final grade, so it is important that you **revise all the documents** that you've submitted to the Active Learning assignments, before submitting for a letter grade.

Give concerted attention to the revision and editing process. Review the various assignments you've completed for this module and focus on revising, editing and proofreading in preparation for submitting the portfolio.

Why This Assignment?

Revising and editing your work is an important part of the writing process. Assembling your work into a portfolio teaches you about the process, but is also a task that may transfer into many other areas of your life. As you revise, edit, and proofread, you'll gain new insights about your own writing process, as well as practice shaping and revisiting your writing. You may be surprised at how much your writing has developed during the semester and how well you are able to apply your rhetorical knowledge to this task.

Assignment Guidelines

- Use MLA style or APA.
- Submit revised and edited files of each of the 3 separate documents listed below.

Final Portfolio Required Documents:

1. Analyzing a Text
2. The Project Proposal
3. Reflection Letter

Submitting Your Work

- Upload your documents to Canvas
- You can upload multiple files to the same assignment. Once you attach one document, attach another, and then submit once you have attached all files.
 - Alternatively, drag and drop each document one at a time, and then submit once you have completed attaching all files.