

WRITING PROJECT 3: CONNECTING THROUGH COMMUNITY

Introduction to Writing Project 3

Sequences 1 and 2 focused on writing and analyzing narrative and expository text; Sequence 3 serves as a culmination of these skillsets with the additional dimension of the persuasive framework. In a similar sense, Sequence 3 will require you to reflect back on the forces that shape your values and beliefs, as well as the decisions you make for pursuing and defining success along a particular career path. Through these reflections, you will begin to analyze the concept of “community,” as interpreted in both a local and global sense. Developing an area of inquiry from within one of these communities will help you to consider both your role and contributions as a working member within a larger realm of ever-changing and growing communities.

Objective

For this project, you will develop and explore a research topic drawn from the context of one of your communities (as outlined in the opening presentation). As you move through the research process, you will integrate and apply the tools and strategies covered throughout the semester with the ultimate goal of producing a persuasive and engaging analysis of your topic. You are encouraged to utilize narrative and expository text to support your analysis, as each fits your needs. You are also expected to utilize course concepts related to persuasive appeals.

The purpose of the project is to engage an audience in your exploration of a topic that is interesting and important to you, as it relates to a community in which you place great meaning and value. Your project should highlight strong research methodologies and integrate writing skills from across the semester. **Most importantly, this piece is persuasive, so your ultimate goal is to persuade the listeners to agree with you on the perspective and importance of the topic you have explored.**

The audience for this project is your classmates (and potentially your community) and the format of the project is a podcast recording created in the likeness of an episode from *This American Life*. Thus, the final draft should be written with both audience and format in mind. **This is not a typical 4-5 page essay, but rather, an organized script that provides context, necessary background, a clear purpose, and an engaging argument for the listener to follow.** Consider how this structure is both similar to and different from formal essays, especially in regards to organization and tone.

Research

Your final draft should integrate research from a minimum of five sources, including at least 3 sources from peer-reviewed academic journals. You are welcome to use more sources in addition to this minimum. **Your final draft should also include a minimum of three quotations--introduced, correctly cited, and analyzed.** The purpose for using these quotations should be to enhance and clarify your points, provide alternate perspectives, give voice to

characters within the “story,” or other purposeful choices related to your piece. Note: You should be able to explain why a quote was selected to achieve a particular purpose within your paper.

Tasks

For your project you will need to:

- Reflect: Brainstorm a list of your communities and potential topics of inquiry within those communities.
- Research: Determine a specific area of inquiry and develop guiding research questions for exploring that topic. Consult multiple academic and professional sources to better understand the issue. Take and organize useful notes, while maintaining sources and citations.
- Develop an Argument: As you research, you will need to formulate an argument for which you can persuade an audience. It is important that your topic is controvertible (can be argued from multiple angles) in order for you to refute opposing opinions and solidify your thesis.
- Analyze: Discuss potential impact, identify controversies surrounding the issue from multiple perspectives, trace the development of arguments, consider alternate agendas, and critically discuss the “players” or parties involved.
- Synthesize: Combine your analysis into a cohesive interpretation while seamlessly incorporating research evidence from outside sources (**a minimum of five**) alongside your own analysis.
- Draft: As you draft, be sure to keep format in mind. For this reason, you might use sub-headings (such as parts or acts) or denotations for readers (as in a script). This will still follow the basic structure of an essay (introduction-body-conclusion), however the arrangement might be broken up into additional parts for recording purposes.

Once you have completed your final draft, the next step is to publish it as a podcast (including music and narration). The podcast will be presented to the class within the context of a formal presentation. More details to come.

Portfolio and Writer’s Memo

You’ll complete the project in the form of a well organized portfolio, which will include:

- Writer’s Memo
- Preparing to Podcast: Written Reflection
- Writing Project 3: Final Draft with revised Annotated Bibliography
- All planning, brainstorming, and drafts of your project
- Short Assignment 6: Annotated Bibliography
- Short Assignment 5: Project Proposal

The Writer’s Memo serves as a cover sheet to your project. In the memo you should describe your purpose and strategy in writing this project, and ask any questions about the writing that you may have yourself. **You should also directly address the role of “process” in writing this piece, highlighting 2-3 specific elements you focused on during revision.** This is your opportunity to provide some context for the writing but also a chance to ask your reader directly about the effectiveness of the piece.

Assessment and Evaluation:

The letter grade for your portfolio will be based on the class rubric, including the checklist of required elements.

Due Dates:

Project Proposal due: Thursday, Nov. 15

Annotated Bibliography draft due: Thursday, Nov. 21

Writing Project Draft 1 due: Tuesday, Dec. 3

Portfolio due: Tuesday, Dec. 5

Podcast and Presentation due: Sign up for Dec. 10 or 12