

Project two and three outline

Bradley Dilger ~ ENG 108 ~ Fall 2014 ~ <http://dtext.org/>

I am building out the assignments for the course, but have not yet been able to finish them, as I want to get them as right as possible the first time. (Yes, first drafts can be shitty, but in our context, that might cause a big problem.) With that in mind, here is an outline to help you manage your time and begin to think about your coursework more concretely, as I diligently work to (a) design an effective assignment, and (b) respond to work you have already submitted.

We will use the frameworks of discourse community (see Deans 4 and other chapters) and activity theory (see Kain & Wardle on course web site) to consider the ways communities, reading, writing, and communication are engaged. We will also turn to *Toms River*, Fagin's talk, and our discussions about the ways Fagin uses evidence and reports his research.

Please plan to destroy this outline once I complete the full assignment.

Project two: Community engagement project (9/29 to 11/14*)

Work with our two community partners OR a community partner of your choosing to complete a small amount (8-10 hours) of volunteer service. Conduct primary and secondary research about the organization and individuals involved. Share that research with me by writing up a research report which examines the ways individuals consider the writing choices we are dealing with this semester.

2.1 Proposal: Write a short (1-2pp) proposal which outlines the service work you want to engage. Sketch out the research methods you expect to use and the time frame you plan to follow. You will need to conduct some research to shape your proposal — a mix of using library resources, web searches, and preliminary contact with relevant people. If you are using a community partner other than the two associated with the course, provide background and contact information for your representative(s). Due 10/11.

2.2 Methods: Write a brief proposal (2pp + appendixes) describing the methods you are going to use to study your discourse community and explaining why they are appropriate. Include interview questions, survey instruments, and the like, depending on the community you are working with. Due 10/24.

2.3 Draft: After completing your volunteer service and beginning your research, share a draft of your research report (6-8pp + appendixes) with me and at least one other person in the class. Describe your service experience, what you have learned about the community you've worked with, and literacy trends in the community you studied, using the frameworks of discourse community and activity theory. Due 11/14.

2.4 Final: Revise your draft based on the feedback from me and your reviewers, and given any research you have completed since you submitted the draft, creating a final report (8-10pp + appendixes). Due 12/16.

*See the first note under best practices below.

Project three: Remediation project, web site (11/17 to 12/16)

A central goal of 108 is understanding how rhetorical situation shapes writing. We also think broadly about writing, recognizing it includes far more than words handwritten or printed on paper. Recasting your project as a different medium—a web site created with the WordPress.com platform—will help you understand the role genre, medium and audience play in rhetorical situation. You will create a set of pages and digital media which are well-suited to them — short clips of videos, photos, and the like. Of course, this isn't just a matter of cutting and pasting; you'll have a fair amount of rewriting and reshaping to do in order to get this done.

3.1 Framework: Outline the ways you will remediate the information in your proposal for web-based presentation, including privacy concerns, creation of visual components, rewriting content for web-appropriate style, relevant recasting of information of data into tables and other structures, and division of data into sections. Due 12/02.

3.2 Final: Based on reviews and our conversations, create your WordPress.com site. Submit the URL for your web site to me. Due 12/16.

Best practices

1. While I present these as separate projects, I encourage you to think of them as One Big Project and engage them at the same time.
2. If you can submit assignments early, please do. One excellent strategy is sharing them via Google Docs and writing me an email to ask for a review, including commentary which will help me do so.
3. I encourage you to work together to perform data collection, transcription, and analysis. Simply note when you do so. Please work independently to write your reports unless you have my written permission to work in groups.
4. Use our readings to consider what you need to understand. How big is the community? What texts and technologies do members rely on? What activities do they engage alone? together? in connection with other communities? What rules, written and unwritten, guide their work?