

ESSAY THREE ASSIGNMENT: WHERE AM I HEADED AS A WRITER?
ENGL 121/Fall 2017 **Instructor: Leslie Johnson**

Writing Task

For this essay, you will examine the kind of writing you will do in your chosen major. Your job is to conduct **primary** research about the writing that members of the **discourse community** create and read. Your essay should consider the following:

- The scholarly and other published writing of your selected profession.
- The day-to-day writing of your selected profession
- How someone in that profession views their writing tasks.

As with our first two essays, think of our class as an academic community. We explore topics together, we develop knowledge about those topics, and we share that knowledge with each other.

Consequently, your job is to prepare a manuscript to share that knowledge and ideas with the class.

Your audience is your classmates, your instructor, and others at LCC. In this case, we are exploring our writing practices of the discourse communities we wish to enter. Our job is to develop knowledge use to ourselves and others who wish to enter specific professions.

In writing this essay, you will follow the structure of a research report or article. In short, your essay will include four basic sections: Introduction/background (the problem, what we know, what we want to find out); methodology (how when we went about learning what we want to know); findings (what we learned); discussion/conclusion (what the findings mean and what we need to think about next).

Submission Guidelines (aka Requirements)

1. Length: 1000-1200 words
2. Inclusion of materials from seven different, credible sources. You should reference *Naming What We Know* and at least two sources found through the LCC library.
3. Interview at least one person as a source for your essay.
4. Documentation of borrowed source material in MLA style.
 - a. Must include internal citation and a Works Cited.
 - b. You can use a citation generator, but you are responsible for checking those citations against the *Pocket Style Manual* to ensure correctness.
5. Must follow MLA manuscript formatting. See pp. 167-171 in the *Pocket Style Manual*.

Process Work and Due Dates

1. Topic Proposal & Primary Research Summary (100 points): Due Nov. 14 at 11:59 p.m.
2. Outline of literature search/background (20 points): Due Nov. 21 in class.
3. First Draft (60 points): Due Nov. 16 at class time, 2:10 p.m. *Make sure to bring three print copies of your draft and put an electronic copy in the assigned dropbox.*
4. Revised Draft (20 points): Due at Nov. 28 at class time, 2:10 p.m. *Make sure to bring one print copy to class.*
5. Polished Draft (100 points): Due Nov. 30 at 11:59 p.m. in the appropriate dropbox.
6. Research Notebook (20 points): Due Nov. 30 at class time, 2:10 p.m. *Bring print copies of the sources used in your essay. Make sure they are somehow bound together (e.g., stapled or put in a folder) and have your name on them.*

Please note: You can and will lose points for incomplete or poorly done work.

Process Work

Primary Research: For this essay, you will need to locate actual examples of the public/published writing that occurs in your chosen profession. In other words, you will examine the kinds of writing that this group produces and reads, including those produced for the internet. Furthermore, you will be interviewing someone who currently works in the discourse community you are studying. Your task is not to so much find articles that tell you how to write in the discipline as it is to find sources that embody the values, conventions, and genres of the discourse community. To submit the findings about your research report, complete the template available in D2L and attach it to the topic proposal message (described below).

Topic Proposal: In a D2L coursemail message, complete two tasks in a couple of well-developed paragraphs: First, define/describe the discourse community you are studying. Second, briefly describe the criteria (e.g., audience, purpose, conventions, genre) used to compare the different examples you found. Third, describe the initial conclusions you've reached. Just as importantly, make sure the message reflects the general genre expectations of a business email: appropriate subject line (one that reflects the purpose of the email), business tone and conventions, an introduction that relays the purpose of the email, and closing information that emphasizes any next steps. Make sure to assign your email.

First Draft: Your first draft should be complete. In other words, it should meet the minimum word count, as well as include the four parts of a research report, internal documentation, and a Works Cited. To receive full credit on your first draft, you should also come prepared with three print copies of your essay and have an e-version in the assigned dropbox.

Revised Draft: After participating in peer review, revise your first draft. Make changes to content and structure but also pay attention to correcting grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors. Print out one copy of the revised draft and bring it to class on the due date.

Polished Draft: Your final draft will be submitted solely to a dropbox, but I do ask for paper copies of the sources that you used. I will respond extensively to these polished drafts and assign points based on the quality of the work. On the polished draft due date, also remember to bring print copies of your research to class.

Essay Three Learning Outcomes

I will be looking for two specific learning outcomes in Essay Three—skills we've discussed in class and you are expected to use in this essay. Here is what I'll be looking for in the Essay Three polished draft:

1. Effectively using primary research report format.
2. Effectively proofreading.