Meghann Meeusen ENG 145, Fall 2011

Entering Academic Discourse

Researching and Producing Field-Specific Academic Publication

Objectives:

- Reflect thoughtfully on and notate thoroughly four articles in a specific disciplinary field, notating important genre and context elements.
- Engage in critical discourse of a specific academic discipline by producing a research driven article that meets genre expectations for the field.
- Demonstrate an understanding and proficient use of research, utilized effectively and cited correctly.
- Capture the language/grammar, style, tone, rhetorical strategies, format and citation methods of a particular kind of academic essay.
- Develop an original thesis (or similar substitute fitting your genre) that uses research to present a compelling and relevant academic idea.
- Reflect thoroughly and articulately about your own use of an academic genre and appropriately note this reflection.



Overview: In the second half of the semester, students will take this examination one step further by analyzing documents published in their particular field, whether they be academic, creative or commercially oriented. Students will again analyze the features, conventions and expectations inherent to genre they have selected, and then produce a text that demonstrates a proficient example of it. Although there is flexibility in selecting the text to create, students must choose a genre that demonstrates the discourse of the field and is intended for publication. In-class discussion will focus on identifying conventions of individual discourses, considering audience for public or published works, developing an area of inquiry, utilizing academic databases, reading critical texts, creation of a thesis statement (when appropriate), techniques of interacting with discourse and research, writing style and genre argument structure.

Due Dates:

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Citation and Research Note

One of the most important parts of this project is to develop a unique argument/thesis or topic of inquiry, similar to those experts who do research in your field. Like them, you must demonstrate the following:

1) an original idea, 2) substantive research, and 3) correct citation

Anyone who engages in plagiarism for this project will fail ENG 145. This includes incorrect citation of research.



Schedule of Classes

Week Seven: Scholarly Articles and Academic Databases

Posting: Articles and "route" due Friday

Week Eight: Researching, Source and Citation

Posting: Works cited/citations due Friday

Week Nine: Context, Purpose, Genre Analysis

Posting: Margin notes questions due Monday,

trajectory map due Wednesday.

Week Ten: Thesis and Abstract
Posting: Thesis/Abstract due Friday.

Week Eleven: Peer Review, Reflection Posting: Draft of article due Monday.

The "Entering Disciplinary Discourse" (EDD) project asks students to analyze professional publications created by members of their chosen discipline. To do so, students will research and collect specific articles of interest on a topic, then comment upon genre conventions used in them and articulate overall article meaning. Then, students will use this information to produce a modified example of an academic article and notate on how their genre production matches those they have analyzed. This project includes:

Part I: Critical Discourse Genre Analysis (10 points)

Create an in-depth genre analysis report (3-4 pages) on a genre of critical scholarship in their field of study based upon discussion of at least four master text examples. Attached to this document, you should include margin notes (or similar notation) on all four master texts, indentifying major genre features, evidence of cultural/historic activity, and the author's main purpose/argument

Part II: Genre Production (15 points)

For the second half of the project, you'll write your own academic article which explores a topic of your choosing and as closely mimics the style, purpose, tone, language and format of the articles you studied as is possible. You'll then comment upon your own work (using margin notation or a similar method) to demonstrate your understanding of the technique, features, convention, context and purpose of an academic article. This article should include at least five academic references (typically the same as the annotated bibliography, although can be changed if necessary).

You article should match the types of articles in the journals you are studying, but won't not be as heavily researched or in-depth. My expectation is that your paper would be at least 6-8 pages in length, include appropriately cited research, and adhere to the rhetorical style of the articles you have studied.

You will also comprehensively notate your own essay (approximately 40 notations or the equivalent), explaining in the margins how you appropriately utilize and mimic the features of your genre.