**Week 5: Mar 2 – 8**

**Tue 3/2:**

Today, we’ll start on **Unit 2 – Inquiry-based research**… or what I’m calling “Becoming a freelance writer of a researched article.” Big term, but what does it mean? Largely, it means finding ways to change minds, if we can. We’ll look first at this video from President Barack Obama <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2019/oct/30/barack-obama-calls-out-politically-woke-social-media-generation-video> and talk about it a bit. Then we’ll look at this Letter to the Editor about Social Justice <https://harpers.org/a-letter-on-justice-and-open-debate/> And we’ll talk about how they “work.”

***Homework for 3/4:***

**On Perusall:** Pick one of these articles to read and annotate (they’re already in Perusall) – it doesn’t matter which one, just whatever catches your interest. What stands out to you? What do you like/dislike about this writer’s style? What are you confused by? What do you want to know more about? How does the writer use research (outside facts, statistics, news, interviews)?

* Vox [“The Year We Gave up on Privacy”](https://www.vox.com/recode/22189727/2020-pandemic-ruined-digital-privacy)
* The Atlantic: [“I’m Not Black I’m Kanye”](https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2018/05/im-not-black-im-kanye/559763/)
* Science News: [“How Coronavirus Stress May Scramble Our Brains”](https://www.sciencenews.org/article/coronavirus-covid19-stress-brain)
* The Cut: [“Is Marriage Obsolete?”](https://www.thecut.com/2019/03/marriage-an-investigation.html)
* Sports Illustrated: [“Why I’m Behind the Athletes’ Bill of Rights”](https://www.si.com/college/2021/01/20/cory-booker-athletes-bill-of-rights)

**Thur 3/4:**

We’ll talk about what you saw and how you responded to the articles in Perusall… and what this has to do with the assignment (think audience and article types). You’ll also get a chance to brainstorm some problems/issues that you would like to research and write about, and talk about what kinds of research is available to you. To generate some ideas, you can use this little sequence:

* **Noticing:** Think about a topic or idea that’s captured your attention and that you wonder about. What do you think about it? Why did it capture your attention?
* **Stating a problem:** Problems imply conflict, or lack of information, or the need to just *do* something.
* **Asking questions that emerge from this problem:** Use who, what, when, where, why and how to generate questions about the problem.
* **Thinking about what’s at stake:** Composition and rhetoric scholar Joseph Williams articulates this best when he asks: “What will you gain from answering your question or what will be lost if you do not answer your question?”

***Homework for 3/9:***

**On OpenLab:**Write a blog post (at least 400 words) in which you describe 2 or 3 possible problems/issues that you want to research and write an article on for your Unit 2 project. You’ll narrow it down to just one, but for now you’re brainstorming ideas. Think about things you disagree with or want to change other people’s minds about. Provide a brief context for each problem, and explain why each is important to you and your community. For instance, you can discuss where the problem stems from, who it impacts, why it is important to address now, and/or who you can appeal to so as to help implement change.

***Title it “Problems – your name”***

***Category – Problems***

**Week 6: Mar 9 – 15**

**Tue 3/9**

Today, we’ll narrow down the problem/idea you wrote about for OpenLab. The goal is to narrow down to a single issue, and we’ll do that by leaving a question, comment, or suggestion for everybody as a way to give each other some help, some ideas about where to find good sources of information, etc.

We’ll also talk a little more about types of articles as well as about research and what types you might want to use… including interviews, videos, podcasts, and more.

***Homework for 3/11:***

***On OpenLab:*** Post a short proposal for your article. This should be about 300 words, and it needs to include these things:

* Your research question/issue and why it is important to your discourse community (or you).
* If you could publish an article anywhere about this topic, where would you publish it?  Why?  What audience would you reach there?
* What TYPE of article are you trying to write-- for what type of publication? Sports Illustrated? Science News?
* What kind of sources are you going to look for for your article? Are you going to do interviews? Statistical research? Make some notes about where you will get started (in our next class!) looking for information.

***Title it “Proposal – your name”***

***Category - Proposal.***

**Thur 3/11**

Today, we’ll look at a real-world example of how one student writer put together an article that was published in the *New York Times* Mentor Texts section, and we’ll learn how to do a Reverse Outline.

***Homework for 3/11:***

**On OpenLab:** Pick one of the 5 articles from the Perusall list, the one that’s most like the type of article you want to do, then do a reverse outline of it. This means picking a *mentor text* that’s doing some of the same things in terms of how it’s laid out that you’ll want to do (making some of the same rhetorical moves). This text SHOULD NOT be about the topic you intend to write about (though it can be in the same general field-- if you’re writing about science, it can be a science text). You’ll look to this text for style and structural tips if you need them, but you’re not using it for facts.

NOTE: If none of the articles is the type you’re thinking about writing, you can pick one of your own (approx 2500 words and well-researched), but it needs to be approved by me.

***To do the reverse outline:*** for each paragraph of the article, write two or three sentences describing, not what the paragraph SAYS, but what the paragraph DOES-- what rhetorical moves the writer is making (for example: “In paragraph one, the writer tells a short anecdote about the topic, both to get the reader’s attention and to develop a personal relationship with the reader.”)

***Title it “Reverse outline – your name”***

***Category – Reverse Outline***

**Week Seven: Mar 16-22**

**Tue 3/16**

We’ll talk about how to use the mentor text reverse outline to help you create your Rough Draft… ***because*** you’ll be working on a rough draft for Wednesday 3/25.We’ll also look more at the kinds of research you’ll want to do to make your article better: data, background, cutting edge commentators, interviews that you can conduct, videos, music, poetry, etc.). We’ll work with a tool called KWL+ (which some of you might be familiar with) as well as the Journalist’s Questions (the 5W’s and 1H – who, what, when, where, why, how). And we’ll talk about how to conduct in-person interviews, which are often your best research for articles like this (as you’ve seen from the ones you’ve already read and analyzed).

***Homework for 3/18***

**On OpenLab:** Post 150-word summary of one source. If it’s an interview, transcribe a little of it and then explain briefly what it’s about. Include a link to the source if one is available.

***Title it “Sources 1 – your name”***

***Category - Sources 1***

**Thur 3/18**

Today is mostly for checking in and seeing how you’re doing, and giving some help if you need it.

***Homework for 3/23:*** Post 150-word summary of a second source. If it’s an interview, transcribe a little of it and then explain briefly what it’s about. Include a link to the source if one is available.

***Title it “Sources 2 – your name”***

***Category - Sources 2***

***HEADS UP: Homework for Thur 3/25:***

**In the class Google Drive folder (Unit 1 – Article drafts):** This will necessarily be VERY ROUGH, but use your mentor text reverse outline to help you get something like a draft done for the target market you chose. In other words, if you intend to write something for *Psychology Today*, it should at least look like a typical *Psychology Today* article.

**Week Eight: Mar 23 – Apr 6 (including Spring Break 3/27-4/4)**

**Tue 3/23**

Today, we’ll create Padlet Progress Reports in class and see if anybody needs some help. Mostly it’s a way of seeing how you’re doing, what bumps you’ve encountered, what help you need.

***Homework for 3/25***

**In the class Google Drive folder (Unit 2 – Article drafts):** This will necessarily be rough, but try to make it as close to the reverse outline of your mentor text as you can. In other words, if you intend to write something for *Psychology Today*, it should at least look like a typical *Psychology Today* article.

**Thur 3/25**

We’ll do pair workshops today:

* ***Read your partner’s article.***
* ***Write a short letter to your partner*** (at least 300 words) explaining what you thought the purpose of their article was and which audience it was addressed to. Then, choose at least 2 specific examples in the article where you felt the student achieved his/her purpose or successfully appealed to his/her audience, and explain why you thought they were successful. Finally, suggest 2 aspects of the article where you were confused or wanted to know more. Be very specific about what you wanted to know and why (or where you were confused and why). Begin your letter with your partner’s name and sign your own name.

[As always, note that you do not have to follow all the changes your peers suggest. Just take what they say into account; you ultimately must decide what needs to be revised.]

* ***Have a brief conversation*** with each other about the article.
* *If you have time and want to read someone else’s, go for it!*

***Homework for 4/6 (which is the Tuesday after Spring Break):***

**In Google Drive folder Unit 2 – Article drafts:** Post a revised draft of your article. No need to do a Reviewer’s Memo this time.

**SPRING BREAK 3/27 – 4/4**