**Literacy Influences- Diagnostic Essay**

The essay has two parts:

1) **Story-** Tell us a story of when you first encountered a piece of writing that influenced you. A “piece of writing” can be approached pretty broadly—lyrics, an Instagram caption, a poem, a novel, whatever. Feel free to pick something that influenced you positively or negatively.

When you’re telling the story, put me in the moment of the first time that you encountered that piece of writing. Let me see what you saw and feel what you felt. And remember that all satisfying stories have a beginning, middle, and end.

2) **Reflection-** Reflect on what encountering that piece of writing meant for you as a reader/writer/thinker. Maybe that encounter changed how you write. Maybe it made you want to find similar pieces of writing. Maybe it made you feel excited, inspired, bored, etc.

Your essay should be at least 500 words. Please type and bring a copy to turn in at the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 4.

**GENRE ANALYSIS**

**What am I writing?**

You will write a paper of at least 1,500 words that: 1) introduces the features of a genre that is interesting to you, 2) analyzes a particularly interesting sample from that genre, and 3) explains why an expanded understanding of that genre is useful for you.

Pick a genre that you want to know more about, not necessarily one that you are already deeply familiar with. It can be something that you’ll need within your major, like a lab report, something that you’ll need professionally, like a cover letter, or something that interests you personally, like a personal essay.

This paper does not need a particular thesis or main claim; I’m more interested in seeing you address the three main questions of the paper in a complete way.

**Why am I writing it?**

By researching a genre that is useful and interesting to you, you will be able to participate in that genre in the future. This could lead to doing better in class, higher quality participation in the workplace, or better social outcomes, depending on what you choose. The goal is that this project will have a real-world impact.

By doing this investigative work, you’ll sharpen the genre analysis skills that we’ve been building in class. My hope is that through class practice and this paper, you’ll be able to research and work within any genre that you encounter in the future, which will allow you to enter lots of social, academic and professional situations as an insider.

By looking at a genre generally and then picking a representative sample, you’re setting yourself up to produce within that genre. My hope is that after this unit, and especially this paper, you’ll start employing these skills automatically when you’re asked to work within a new genre.

**Who is my audience?**

As we’ve studied in class, all writing has an audience. Your classmates and I are the audience for the paper. We’ll be reading it in its draft and final forms to give you feedback, but we may also benefit from learning about the genre features that you’re studying. For example, if your classmate is in your peer review group and reads your paper about the genre features of cover letters, she may develop a better understanding of their features and write a cover letter with greater ease.

Because we’re your audience, we know about genre analysis and rhetorical situation as well as you do. Your paper doesn’t need to summarize or explain what things that we’ve already studied are. It needs to explain the genre features and indicate what impact knowing these genre features has on you and what you’re able to do now that you know about the genre features.

Think about your audience in terms of higher and lower order concerns. Make sure that you can justify your writing choices in terms of audience.

**Formatting:**

The paper should be in MLA format, including. Include a works cited page that cites the interesting sample.

**Timeline:**

9/18- Peer review

9/23- Submit on OpenLab for grading

(I still need to make a rubric)

**CALL TO ACTION: RESEARCH PAPER**

For this paper, you will identify a pressing issue within a discourse community that you are a member of and write a call to action—a suggestion of what people should do—supported by research.

**THE ASSIGNMENT:** The final version will be a thesis driven research paper of 1,800-2,000 words. The thesis will be your call to action. In the body of your paper, you will incorporate your research and the interviews from your previous project in order to support your call to action.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** You will present this call to action to your classmates in an academic setting. Therefore, you should use the conventions of “academic paper English” that we studied earlier in the semester.

Note: After this project, you will remix the research paper into a new genre. The new audience will be the discourse community that you’ve been writing about. So you’re writing in an academic setting in this iteration, but you’ll approach it again later through a new genre for a new audience.

**TIMELINE:**

Wednesday 10/30- Bring in three printed copies of your call to action paper for peer review

Monday 11/04- Submit your call to action paper on OpenLab by the start of class for feedback & grading

(We will design a rubric collaboratively as a class)

**REMIX YOUR CALL TO ACTION**

In your previous assignment you created a call to action in which your classmates and I were the audience. Now you will think about the genres that your chosen discourse community uses—how can you best reach them with your call to action? Choose a genre and translate the message from your previous paper into that genre. Your genre could be a podcast, a vlog, a letter to the editor, a series of stickers to post around the neighborhood, an Instagram account, etc. If you have an audio-based or a video-based project, please include a transcript of your script in your submission.

Along with creating the remix itself, you’ll write an artists’ statement that indicates why you chose this genre. The artists’ statements should be at least 500 words.

**Timeline:**

Wednesday 10/30- Bring in three printed copies of your call to action paper for peer review

Monday 11/04- Submit your call to action paper on OpenLab by the start of class for feedback & grading

(We will design a rubric collaboratively as a class)