

During Unit One, you were encouraged to think about your personal writing style and to reflect upon all of your past writing experiences. Units Two and Three encourage you to use those prior experiences (the good and the bad) as fuel to reconstruct the ways in which you conduct research. While some of the methods you will use during these new units may reflect prior writing experiences, there is plenty of space for you to be as creative as you'd like and to bring something "new" to the category of research.

As we have started to discuss, genre awareness is important because it is necessary in helping understand the various forms of communication; not only that, but it's crucial to recognize how different methods of communication are needed for each distinct audience you are speaking to.

Let's say, for example, that I am having a conversation about the necessity of reforming gun laws. Although I am talking about the same topic, I would communicate about this topic differently to each individual in my life—because I am able to recognize my **audience**, I am able to use different communicative **genres** to get my point across. I might write a letter to a local politician...I might text my best friend...I might make a video blog for my social media followers...I might email a gun reform advocate I met at an event. Again, since I am familiar with my audiences, I can use different communicative genres. In each situation, I would use a different language. With every situation a person is in, there are different communicative requirements and speech/language patterns.

Now, it's your turn! I want you to brainstorm a research question that you always wanted the answer to. It could be about a social justice issue (such as I have demonstrated) or it can be about any topic that you've been curious about—develop a research question based around that curiosity. Units two and three will be about your research question.

Here's some tips on how to develop a resource question:

- —Think about a topic you've always been interested in. It can be anything. The topic can be a social justice concern, or about one of your hobbies, or it could be about a film, TV show. What about the subject makes you interested?
- —Have you ever wondered "something" about that subject? Does it raise any questions in your mind?
- —Is the subject controversial? What type of questions on each side of the fence would people have?
- —Has anyone ever asked **you** questions about the subject?
- —Have you ever reached out to someone to inquire about the subject?

Here's some research questions:

- Why does police brutality occur?
- What are popular foods in Philly?
- What city did grunge rock originate?
- What happened during The Harlem Renaissance?
- Is prostitution legal in Nevada?

These are all just examples. I recommend picking a topic that you're extremely interested in or passionate about. If you are still confused about a research question, please reach out to me so I can help you brainstorm topics.

Unit Two, Annotated Bibliography Assignment

Due Date: October 20th, 2020

Word Count 1000 words.

This is a two part major assignment that requires an annotated bibliography and a short reflective essay about what you learned.

Annotated Bibliography Assignment:

An annotated bibliography is a collection of citations. After each citation, a small paragraph follows that explains what the cited source is about and why it's relevant. Once you gather your research question, you are required to put together an annotated bibliography of three sources that will help you answer your research questions. The three sources, though, **must be in three different genres**. The purpose of this assignment is further your knowledge of genre and audience awareness. After putting together your annotations, write a brief research reflection that explains why you were interested in the research question, what you learned from each of your sources, and what you hope to do with this new knowledge in the future.

Your annotated bibliography **must** be in MLA format and alphabetical order. Your source descriptions should be between 100-150 words. If you need help putting together the annotated bibliography, please view the example that I have included. If you need help placing your sources in MLA citation format, please view my MLA Cheat Sheet document.

Here's an example. Please note that I used a news article, a YouTube video, and a movie:

My research question is:

What can New York do to stop gun violence?

My Annotated Bibliography:

Beautiful Boy. Directed by Shawn Ku, Anchor Bay Entertainment, 2010.

This source is movie about a boy who goes on a shooting spree at his school and ends up shooting himself. The movie follows the story of his parents who have to live with the stigma. This is good for my research because it shows a different side to gun violence. It shows how the families of the shooters are negatively impacted.

Dorn, Sara. "Murders Up 30 Percent in New York City This Year." *New York Post*, 9 March 2019, <https://nypost.com/2019/03/09/murders-up-30-percent-in-new-york-city-this-year/>.

This article talks about how gun violence is on the rise in New York City, despite the fact that it was at one time decreasing. The article argues that violence and specifically gun violence is becoming trendy. People are concerned that their right to own guns will be taken away, and as a result, they are purchasing weapons at a massive rate. This article is important to my project because I can use it to show that we need stricter gun laws and without them, things will get worst.

"How Well Do New Yorkers Know Their State Gun Laws?" *YouTube*, uploaded by BuzzFeedVideo, 1 Aug 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTTABH1uipQ>. Accessed 1 May 2020.

This is a video of several interviews of New York residents. This source is relevant because it shows that many different residents in the state don't have much knowledge of the gun laws. This shows that there needs to be more awareness

about the laws and even the violence that is occurring. With more awareness, people may practice gun safety and responsibility.

Research Reflection:

For your research reflection, you must write about all of the things you learned through these three selected sources about your research question. It is your job to analyze each source that you used.

Explain whether or not they ended up helping address your question. Share what each source taught you. Share what you hope to do with the knowledge in the future. Between your annotations and reflection, you should have a total of at least 1000 words.

You will be graded on:

- Genre Awareness—did you use three distinct genres for your annotated bibliography?
- Format—did you follow MLA guidelines for an annotated bibliography?
- Word count—is this entire project (annotated bibliography and reflection) about 1000 words?
- Clarity—are your points clear and well argued?
- Consistency—do you have both the annotated bibliography *and* research reflection?
- Content—is all of your work informative and well-researched.
- Presentation—is your paper in black ink, size twelve font, and Times New Roman font style?
- Language—are you using decent grammar and are your words spelled correctly?

Unit Three, Research Remix

Due Date: November 19th, 2020

Artist Statement Word Count: 750 words.

Now that you have done your investigation and gathering of research, you'll "**remix**" your findings! For your Unit Three major assignment, you are required to create something new out of the information that you discovered; you must take your research topic and make something new in one of the genres that you previously studied. You have to use one of the genres you previously used for your annotated bibliography since it can build upon your knowledge of that genre.

Here are a few ideas (you are not limited to them):

- Write a song (with lyrics).
- Write (and perform, if you'd like) a spoken word poem.
- Write a blog post.
- Write a very short fiction story.
- Write a police report.
- Write a short scene of a play.
- Write a book or film review, as if your review will appear in a major newspaper.
- Draw a picture or create a poster.
- Make a pamphlet.
- Make a video essay (about a few minutes long).
- Make a comic book with a few panels.
- Record yourself playing an instrument (about a few minutes long).
- Record yourself singing (about a few minutes long).
- Record an interview (about a few minutes long).

Aside from the creative element, you'll be required to write an "artist statement" (which should be about 750 words) that describes the creative project. There are three things your artist statement should include:

- Describe what you did and the type of audience you were communicating with. Maybe you didn't construct your project for an audience at all; either way, talk about the brainstorming of the project and why you selected the genre.
- Describe the process of construction. Take me through the steps of your creation. Did you have any technical issues? Did things go better (or worst) than you expected? Did you have any skills or background knowledge that helped with the construction of the project?
- Describe what you learned through this process. How does it relate to your research project? Did you learn anything new about your original research question? Do you like the project you came up with?

You will be graded on:

- Genre Awareness—did you use a distinct genre you used before in this class?
- Word count—is the project at least 1000 words? Are you spending at least 100 words each describing your sources?
- Language—are you using decent grammar and are proper spelling in your artist statement?
- Clarity—is your message clear and understanding?
- Creative Presentation—is your project well-thought out and original?
- Written Presentation—is the artist statement in black ink, size twelve, and Times New Roman font?