

Prospective Unit Two and Unit Three Assignments

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.

Carrie Hall 5/22/20 2:43 PM

Comment: Maybe point out here that you would use different language in those different situations too?

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.

Carrie Hall 5/22/20 2:44 PM

Comment: You will have to work on ways to best come up with those questions.

UNIT TWO: Annotated Bibliography and Research Reflection

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

Annotated Bibliography:

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.

Carrie Hall 5/22/20 2:44 PM

Comment: This is a great explanation!

Your annotated bibliography **must** be in MLA format and alphabetical order. It **must** also have between 100-150 words describing each cited source. 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:

Carrie Hall 5/22/20 2:46 PM

Comment: Great! It's good to show students a wide range of what's "allowed"

My research question is:

What can New York do to stop gun violence?

My annotated bibliography:

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.

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.

Research Reflection:

For your research reflection, you must write a **minimal of 750 words** 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.

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—are your paragraph descriptions 100 words each? Is your reflection about 750 words?
- Clarity—are your points clear and well argued?
- 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?

Carrie Hall 5/22/20 2:48 PM

Comment: So what you've written above, with three sources, is 267 words. I think you have to explain what MORE you want them to say. I might suggest that you ask them to analyze the genre or audience in some way? (Some people call this a "reflective annotated bibliography"). You could also make this longer by asking for more sources if you want to keep it more traditional.

UNIT THREE: The Research Remix

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. Although you are allowed to be as creative as you'd like, there is one major rule: **it cannot be in any of the genres you previously used** for your annotated bibliography. If we are going by my previous example, that would mean that I cannot write a news paper article, I cannot record an

Carrie Hall 5/22/20 2:49 PM

Comment: I'm curious. Why not? They've learned about these genres, why not use that knowledge?

interview, and I cannot make a movie/write a movie script. You are required to take your research topic and make something new and creative in a new genre than the ones who previously worked with.

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 veery 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 did not use before in this class?
- Word count—is your artists statement about 750 words?
- 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?

Amity, I think this is really good and well-described. I put most of my notes in the margins. The main issues I have are the length—your examples are short, so how do you want the students to make it to 750 words? I suggested that you either have them write a reflective annotated bib in which they do some rhetorical analysis or you have them find more sources. Also, I might suggest that you ask them to write an intro in which they explain what they think they're going to find and a conclusion in which they describe what they found (and what surprised them!)

I love Unit 3—but I do have one question. Why can't they use the genres they've already studied? Why not put that research to work?

Great work and it's been so nice having you in the group this crazy semester. I hope to see you online or (dare I say it) in person—one of these days.

C