

Research and Persuasive Writing

This second half of the class is dedicated to the process of research and writing persuasively. You will use the strategies for research outlined in chapters 18-23 as well as select between the persuasive writing purposes that are described in chapters 16-17.

The following tasks will be included in the final collection of writings submitted for the class:

- 1) Research journals (9 entries)
- 2) Rough draft of your persuasive essay
- 3) Rough draft of your genre translation piece
- 4) Peer reviews of the above
- 5) Final drafts of the above
- 6) Rhetorical Rationale

More detailed descriptions follow:

Research Journal

The research journal is both a major assignment in and of itself and also a building block for the final assignment of the semester (the argument paper and genre translation).

Research journal entries will include a combination of the following:

- Annotated bibliography entries (citation of the source, one paragraph summary of the source, one paragraph reflection about the source)
- Delicious Account Entries
- Interview Notes
- Observation Notes
- Invention Work
- Process Assignments

I recommend using the ePortfolio platform you will use to publish this assignment as your storage device. Create a blog using Weebly, Wordpress, or Yola and write a blog page that you can add to as you find articles to respond to. The whole collection of the final drafts will end up on the ePortfolio anyway, you might as well start it there.

Final Project Contents

Argument Paper First Draft

Write a persuasive paper based on either chapter 16 (pgs 466-526) or chapter 17 (pgs 534-558). Your paper should be 4-6 pages long, include at least 5 sources, and a works cited page.

Be sure you have a thesis statement, well developed main points, and proper MLA format.

Peer Review for Argument Paper

Respond to your peers' first drafts by answering the questions on pg 31 of your text (all bulleted questions AND #1 and #2 at the bottom of the page). Include any other comments you think would be useful for the writer.

Genre Translation First Draft

Once you have completed your argument paper, you will choose a specific audience within the conversation of your issue, and will write to that audience in a different genre. You might select to write a popular article, such as a letter to an editor of the campus newspaper, a blog on a Website, or a newspaper column such as *Newsweek's* "My Turn". The point is to consider the rhetorical situation of your issue and choose an audience within that issue, then choose a genre that would most effectively achieve your purposes with that audience.

Peer Review for Genre Translation

Peer review the genre translation using the following questions:

1. Who is the audience?
2. What is the purpose of this document? What argument is being made?
3. How effectively does the writer reach his/her audience with his/her intended purpose?
4. Considering the chosen genre, does the writer use an appropriate style and structure?
What could be improved in this area?
5. What are the strengths of this paper?
6. What suggestions for improvement would you make?

Help! I need an example!

For example, if your issue is "Raising awareness about Uganda's 'invisible children' (see www.invisiblechildren.com), you might approach the topic this way: First you will research the topic (the war in Uganda, the kidnapping of children to be forced into armies, the nightly flight of children to the cities to avoid kidnapping, what America has—and has not—done in regards to the issue, etc...) Then you would write your argument paper about that topic (perhaps with a purpose and a thesis that America needs to get involved in the issue somehow—you'd be specific here—to stop the kidnapping of Ugandan children.) Then, for your genre translation, you might write a letter to a legislator urging him/her to get involved in the issue; or you might write a letter to high school students urging them to get involved with the American youth movement that supports the Invisible children in Uganda; or you might participate in the official Invisible Children blog.

Final Drafts Argument Paper, Genre Translation, Rhetorical Rationale

Based on your peer reviews and your instructor feedback, revise your argument paper into a final draft.
Based on your peer reviews and your instructor feedback, revise your genre translation into a final draft.

Rhetorical Rationale

The rhetorical rationale is a key component of the final. Think of it as the thread of thinking that undergirds all your other writing. It is your opportunity to explicitly express and explain your learning and your decision making in your writing. Address the following questions either in essay or in question/answer format:

1. Describe your writing process for both the argument paper and your genre translation. Look back at the process work you did and trace your thinking about your topic and about your writing.
2. Describe the rhetorical situation as you see it for both your argument paper and your genre translation. Be sure to discuss both audience and purpose for both documents.
3. Describe the revisions you made in your argument paper and your genre translation, and discuss why you made those revisions.
4. What did you learn about research and about writing in these assignments?
5. Discuss anything else you would like readers of your final to know about your writing or about yourself as a writer.

Submittal Process

Submit your final draft along with the final draft genre translation, and rhetorical rationale using your ePortfolio website of choice. You will send me an email with the link or instructions on how to access the documents. I will not accept another format for submission.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You will need to have the ePortfolio started soon to ease the process of submitting your final essay. You will need to make it visible to me for at least two weeks following the final deadline. At that point, you may change access as desired (or as soon as you receive your final grade).

As part of the ePortfolio criteria, you must preface the entry into your English 1010 page/link with a self-reflection. That self-reflection should be an essay that considers the following: How does what I learned about writing for different genres and purposes serve me in my college career and as a future (current) professional? I do not recommend using this point of your portfolio to give feedback about the contents of the course. There are venues for feedback in the evaluations that you will have access to soon. Instead, focus on the audience for your portfolio, people you would like to impress with your success.