

Project 2: Mini-Ethnography

Points: 250

Draft 1 Workshop: 10/11

Draft 2 Workshop Draft to Instructor at Midnight: 10/18

Conference: 10/22 – 10/26

Final Draft: 11/1

REQUIREMENTS

- 8-10 pages double spaced
- 6-8 sources (see additional requirements)
- MLA Formatting

OBJECTIVES

- Students will gain an understanding of rhetorical situation, audience, and genre in order to carefully and thoughtfully respond to a variety of writing tasks inside and outside of the academy.
- Students will engage writing as a dynamic and fluid process and learn more about the ways in which they can become successful writers.
- Students will engage with non-profit organizations that benefit the Tallahassee community in order to appreciate and investigate the diversity of our local community.
- Students will practice evaluating, responding to, and integrating primary and secondary research in a variety of writing tasks.

OVERVIEW

During this research project, we'll take a deeper look at the organizations you are working with, the populations and communities they serve, the services they provide, and their contributions to the Tallahassee area. This project, essentially a research paper, will also help acquaint you with the genre conventions of the academic research essay.

During this project you'll begin engaging in secondary and primary research and employing some ethnographic research methods in order to accurately and ethically represent your organization. This project will also be argumentative in nature, meaning it should attempt to persuade an audience to take action, support an initiative, or approach an issue in a different or new way. You'll use the work you do in this project to lay a foundation for your media campaign in Project 3.

GETTING STARTED

Throughout this project, you'll complete a series of researcher journals that will help move you forward in the research process. Researching can be a difficult and time consuming process, so I've designed the entries as a space for you and me to enter into a dialogue to keep each other updated on how that process is progressing. The first journal entry asks you to do some freewriting to come to a workable research question to guide the project. This will help you locate and choose sources, but will also shape the way you observe at your location and the questions you ask in interview. Eventually, the research question will lead you to a protothesis that will guide you in drafting your paper.

You might find it useful to outline, map, or cluster this paper. You'll be dealing with a lot of information, both from readings and your experiences, and you'll need to keep track of everything and keep the thoughts well organized.

STRUCTURE & ORGANIZATION

There is no set structure or organization for this paper, but it must include:

- A clear thesis statement
- Background information on your organization/social issue
- An exploration of how the organization/issue affects our local community
- An exploration of how the organization/issue fits into a national or global context
- An acknowledgement of opposing argument and respectful refutation of that argument

The paper should anticipate an intelligent, but unformed reader. You are welcome to incorporate visuals in this draft, but the final draft *must* be at least 8 *full* pages of *text*.

YOUR POSITIONALITY AS A RESEARCHER

This project asks you to approach your organization and a topic of interest as a researcher. As we continue throughout the project, you will be responsible for maintaining a respectful and ethical relationship with your research participants (the people you interview, observe, etc.). You may have to make some ethical decisions (should you use a person's real name or a pseudonym?, for example) and you may find that some of these questions are difficult to answer. If you are struggling or have concerns, please feel free to ask me any questions you have about researching in your organization.

Too, you'll want to remember your positionality in this organization. For the most part, you are an outsider and may not have the same experiences as the people who work with the organization long-term or the organization's clients. Occasionally your work with the organization will be challenging or will require you to question certain assumptions you had about the community, organization, social issue, etc. It can be uncomfortable, but it's ok if that happens. It's called learning.

SOURCES & MLA DOCUMENTATION

For this paper, you'll be using traditional library research methods as well as some ethnographic methods used by researchers in many social sciences. We'll talk more about these methods in class, as well as methods for finding sources through the library databases. For this paper, you are required to use the following:

- At least 1 interview with a person who works for or benefits from the organization
- At least 1 observational account of the organization, how it works, and what it does.
- 3 to 5 sources from academic journal articles, books, or book chapters.
- At least 2 reliable web sources (.gov, .edu, .org).

You may use non-Academic sources from the library or the internet in addition to the sources listed above at your own discretion. Those sources, however, should be reliable and accurate. Sources from sites such as Wikipedia, WikiHow, WikiAnswer, eHow or other platforms may not be reliable or suitable for this project.

All sources must be documented in-text and in a Works Cited page in MLA format.

PROCESS MEMO

The process memo provides you with an opportunity to reflect on your writing process, the material you've encountered throughout the process, and the ways you approached the revision of this assignment. For this project, the process memo should be at least one full page, double-spaced. The reflection should address the following, in no particular order: how you got started and how you proceeded (did you outline? Just start writing? Did you read a lot first? did you read as you went?), changes you made based on peer or instructor feedback and why you made those changes, changes you did not make (even if someone told you to) and why you did not make those changes, challenges you faced with this assignment, and how the assignment made you think about the community, organizations, or issues the organizations respond to.

RELATED ASSIGNMENTS

Researcher Journals 1-5 must be completed during this assignment. They are designed to help you scaffold the work of this project.