

WRA 101 AY 2024–2025 SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT

PROJECT 3 (P3): DISCIPLINARY AND PROFESSIONAL LITERACIES PROJECT

Our P3 Learning Goal: To inquire into the products and communicative practices of a discipline, field, major, or job and to discover its practices of literacy (reading, writing, communicating, and speaking).

In this project, you will investigate a discipline or profession of interest to you, as well as how writing operates in that discipline or profession. You will do this through analysis of sources and what you learn from an interview.

- **Discipline:** you may consider a "discipline" to be any of [the departments, colleges, or programs of study here at MSU](#): e.g., Supply Chain Management, Mechanical Engineering, Music Composition, Computer Science, Professional Writing, etc.
- **Profession:** you may consider a "profession" to be defined by the sorts of [jobs or occupations](#) that people take on in the world—ones that may or may not have corresponding disciplines: e.g., Airline Pilot, Architect, Veterinarian, Sports Writer, Graphic Designer, Professor, Geneticist, Kinesiologist, etc.

For P3, you'll conduct research on your discipline/profession and turn in a proposal with an interview plan, a rhetorical analysis of sources, a research report, and a final paper.

Inquiry and Discovery: Asking Questions and Gathering Data

To achieve our learning goal, we will need to ask research questions, and then find and use some sources that can help us begin to answer those questions. We will look to several places to develop questions and gather data: yourself, another person in the field, and outside sources.

Step 1: Considering Identity and Experiences / the Proposal and Interview Plan

For the proposal, you will

- select a discipline, field, major, job, or professional culture and write about what you already know about it.
- reflect over your own experiences in the field and the reading, writing, and communication practices you've experienced there.
- formulate research questions for aspects about the field and its literacies that you want to learn.
- make a plan for conducting an interview with someone else in the field and draft interview questions

NOTE: The professor must OK your interview plan before you reach out to your potential interviewee.

Step 2: Conducting the Interview

You will conduct your interview in person, on Zoom, on the phone, or via email. Email should be a last choice, as you will get a lot less information if you don't see and meet your interviewee.

Please plan to interview a parent or family member ONLY IF you cannot find someone outside of your family to interview.

Proposal (graded for completion)

Your proposal should address the following questions:

The Discipline/Profession and You

- What discipline or profession have you chosen? Describe and explain what you know about the discipline or profession. Why did you choose this discipline/profession?
- Write out 3-5 research questions about your chosen discipline or profession and the communication practices (reading, writing, communicating, speaking, listening) of the discipline or profession. These should be **questions about the field overall that you don't already know the answer to** and that you can look into with your research.
- Write about yourself in relation to the discipline or profession. What are some aspects of your identity (personal or social aspects, from the identity wheels)? Are any of your identity aspects privileged or marginalized? How might your identities have a role (positive, negative, or neutral) in the discipline or profession you have chosen for P3?

The Interview Plan

- Who will you interview? What is their field/position, and why are they a good choice for this project? How do you know this person or have access to them? How will you contact them to ask them if they are willing to interview?
- Where and how will you conduct your interview (in-person, on Zoom, on the phone, or via email)? Why did you choose this format? What do you need to do to prepare to interview in this format? Will you record your interview with audio or video? If so, what do you need to do to prepare to record? If not, why not?
- Please draft 5-10 interview questions that you will eventually use in your interview.
 - Ask at least one question about **writing or communication in the field**, at least one question about **a current problem in the field**, and at least one question about **identities, diversity, and/or inclusion** in the field.

OPTION: you can use AI to generate interview questions if you want, but please evaluate, revise, and reorder the questions the bot gives you.

Step 3: Analyzing Outside Sources

In addition to using examples from yourself and your interviewee, you will also want to find, analyze, and cite 3 outside sources for this project. To start, you will compose a Rhetorical Analysis of these 3 sources. We will visit the MSU library to learn about and use the resources the library offers for research and citation.

Rhetorical Analysis of 3 Sources (graded for completion and quality)

You must find the following types of sources:

- Source 1: an article from a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal in your discipline, field, or area.
- Source 2: a website or job advertisement in your discipline, field, or area
- Source 3: a media source related to your discipline, field, or area (can be an audio, video, social media, or image source)

For the rhetorical analysis, write up the following for each source:

1. 1-2 sentences introducing the source's title, what it is, and where it's from (give a link to the source if possible).
2. Reader/Writer/Text Rhetorical Analysis
 - **Reader:** Who would be a reader for this text? What can we tell about the reader/audience based on the text itself?

- **Writer:** Who is the writer of this text? How can you tell? Is the author reliable and trustworthy, and how can you tell? What is the writer's purpose?
- **Text:** what genre, form and medium does the text take, and why? How is the text organized? What modes does the text use? What else do you notice about how the text looks or how it is designed?

Example Rhetorical Analysis: [\(see article here\)](#)

Carpenter, R. (2009). Boundary Negotiations: Electronic Environments as Interface. *Computers and Composition*, 26, 138–148.

Reader/Writer/Text:

This is a print journal article published in C&C and peer-reviewed, so it is a reliable, academic source. The readers are most likely other academics who are interested in digital writing. They would be used to reading academic articles in this journal and format and would expect headings, citations, and an academic voice and tone for the work.

The writer is R. Carpenter, who is a professor at Valdosta State U. I would trust that he had academic knowledge and would be citing sources. The author's purpose may be to expand definitions of literacy and apply genre theories to electronic writing.

The text has sections with headings, many academic citations (linked by the journal), a References page, and is comprised of longer paragraphs in the style of an academic research article. The design of the page was likely done by the journal, not the author, and is similar to other articles published in the field. It includes information about the author and acknowledgments, as well as an abstract and header on each page.

Step 4: P3 Research Report

Using your 3 sources, please compose a 1-page research report.

Research Report

The research report should include the following:

1. An APA citation for each source in correct formatting (or you can use another academic citation style that your discipline uses like MLA, Chicago, or something else).
2. A list or summary of information from each source that you will use in your paper.

Refer to [the Purdue OWL](#) website for citation formatting help in APA or MLA styles (or come see the professor if you need more help with formatting). Full APA citations will look something like these examples:

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. (2019, November 21). *Justice served: Case closed for over 40 dogfighting victims*. <https://www.aspca.org/news/justice-served-case-closed-over-40-dogfighting-victims>

Carpenter, R. (2009). Boundary negotiations: Electronic environments as interface. *Computers and Composition*, 26, 138–148.

Lushi, K. [Korab Lushi]. (2016, July 3). *Albatross culture 1* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AMrJRQDPjk&t=148s

Price, D. (2018, March 23). *Laziness does not exist*. Medium.
<https://humanparts.medium.com/laziness-does-not-exist-3af27e312d01>

Prime, K. (Host). (2019, March 29). For whom the cowbell tolls [Audio podcast episode]. In *Radiolab*. WNYC Studios. <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/whom-cowbell-tolls>

Communication: Putting it all together in an Essay

At the end of the project, you're going to put everything together in a written essay!

Requirements and Criteria for Success

Your paper will contain:

- A main point, argument, or thesis about
 - your discipline/field overall
 - the literacies (reading, writing, and communication) in the discipline/field
- Evidence from your interview and 3 outside sources (and yourself if appropriate)
 - Evidence can be presented through words, but also through a chart or graph (and then explained)
 - Evidence should be specific and use quotations, paraphrases, summaries, and/or descriptions from your interview and sources
- Introduction, analysis, and synthesis of interview and source material
 - What does the data you've collected from your interview and your sources mean?
 - What are the takeaways from ALL your sources and the interview together?
 - Think about the evidence "sandwich": introduce the evidence, give the evidence, and then explain the evidence.
- Citation of secondary sources within the paper (use MLA or APA format, or another format appropriate for your field of study)
- A References page formatted in MLA or APA format (or another style/format that you choose). If you choose a citation format that is not MLA or APA, please make sure that the professor knows what style you are using.