

Exploring Discourse Communities



Assignment Summary

Discourse communities are groups of people joined in membership, values, goals, and methods of communication. Discourse communities are incredibly varied in size, purpose, and importance. For this project, you will profile a discourse community you are involved in, with special analysis of the different aspects of it. To understand your community, you will gather resources primarily through first-hand texts, such as interviews, surveys, and evidence from personal experience. Further, to help you understand and define discourse communities, you will complete a brief oral presentation on a fictional discourse you locate in a chosen piece of media before your final project is due, which be discussed on a separate assignment sheet.

Goals

- Learn conventions of multiple discourse communities
- Create claims and support them via evidence
- Collecting research outside of scholarly databases
- Critically reflect upon and analyze communities you engage with

Topic

Choose a discourse community you know well and have easy access to. You'll have to engage with other members, your genre of writing, and the overall exigency of your group. If you wish to elaborate on a group mentioned in your

literacy narrative, you are welcome to do so. Make sure your group is a discourse community.

Textual Requirements

Your final product must be at least 900 words (3 double spaced pages) or the digital equivalent of 5-7 minutes. Formatting, design, and other aspects of how you deliver the project are for you to determine. You are encouraged to incorporate multimodal aspects, such as images, video, and other media in your final product. Separate from the word count, include relevant notes and documents you may have created during the process of your paper, such as interviews or surveys. You must include a piece of independent, personal research in your paper.

Elements to Consider

- How are the six aspects of a discourse community reflected in your group? Is there any particular aspect incredibly unique or highly important to your group?
- How do members communicate with each other (specific lexis, genre, intercommunication)?
- How important is written communication in your discourse community?
- What are the roles of members in the discourse communities? Do their roles shape the writing they produce?
- Why should we, as readers, care about your discourse community? What should we learn from it?
- How has your discourse community impacted your writing (as a member)?

Important Dates

September 25: Introduction to Assignment

October 12: Draft Due

October 30: Final Product and Reflection on Canvas (8AM)