

Final Project

Now that you've done primary research about a particular workplace or career, it's time to start analyzing your findings. In the academy, there are several different schools of thought associated with various scholarly disciplines. For the purposes of this project, you will be applying three unique theoretical lenses to your primary research in order to get a more complex view of your particular research subject.

Part One: Introduction and Methodology (500 - 700 words)

The first portion of your project will consist of an introduction to your subject and an overview of the process that you went through in gathering your primary research. Why did you choose to study the particular career that you did? What methods of observation did you employ? How did you go about conducting your interview(s)?

Part Two: Applying Discourse Theory (1000 - 1200 words)

We've all become quite familiar with James Paul Gee's discourse theory over the past few weeks: Gee's theories on how individuals become enculturated into particular discourse communities provide a useful framework for analyzing how people learn and the ways in which they communicate with one another. In this section, you will apply Gee's terminology to your original findings in order to perform a discourse analysis. How do individuals become enculturated into this particular workplace discourse? In what ways do people engage in moshfaking? What does traditional learning prepare these workers for and what does it not prepare them for? What unique terms do members of this discourse community use? This section should mainly consist of you applying Gee's theory to your primary observations, but you can include secondary sources as needed.

Parts Three and Four: Applying Two Additional Theoretical Lenses (800 - 1000 words EACH; 1600 - 2000 words TOTAL)

While I'm requiring everyone to work with discourse theory as a critical lens, I'd also like you to choose two different theoretical lenses with which to view your chosen career/workplace. My default suggestions for these additional lenses are to use a historical lens and a popular culture lens since I think these two lenses are fairly easy to work with, but if you would like to apply a different lens to your work, you are welcome to choose whatever you wish: a feminist critique, an economic analysis, a cognitive viewpoint (like Mike Rose uses), etc.

For each theoretical lens, you will need to conduct secondary research for two purposes:

1. To establish your analytical framework. This is only if your theoretical lens is not self-evident: for example, if you are using a historical lens, your methodology will consist of looking into the history of the profession. This is straight-forward and wouldn't require additional research; however, if you were to use an economic lens, you would need to establish your terminology: Are you using Marxist theory? What definition of "supply side economics" are you using? You will need sources to establish how your lens functions.
2. To provide representative examples. Though you have conducted primary research into a particular discourse community, you will need to compare your observations with other representations of that community. For example, if you are using a pop culture lens, you would want to compare your observations of a particular restaurant to representations of restaurant staff in various movies, songs, books, etc.

You must use a minimum of **3 sources** for each of your theoretical lenses (for a total of **6 sources**). Each of these sources will be cited in an Annotated Bibliography which is included in Part Six of this project.

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Part Five: Conclusions and Reflection (300 - 500 words)

In this final formal section of the paper, you will detail any conclusions that you have come to over the course of your research. What misconceptions did you have about this kind of work before going into this project? What do you think people should know about the particular career/workplace you have studied? Reflect back on the process of researching and composing this paper. What have you learned over the course of this project?

Part Six: Annotated Bibliography and Appendices (no length requirement)

This section will work as an extended Works Cited page. I will discuss in class how to prepare an Annotated Bibliography and how to write a rhetorical precis. The Appendices are records of your original research (field notes, email records, survey results, etc.). If you have electronic files as part of your documentation, these can be emailed to me separately.

Workshops and Supporting Documents

We will be extensively workshoping this paper throughout the composition process. In addition to the typical style of workshop that we've grown accustomed to, you will also be assigned a letter-writing partner who will write a **1 - 2 page response** to your rough draft in order to give you extensive feedback.

When you turn in your final project, you will have one Author's Note, three Response Charts, and a Peer Response Letter. A chunk of your grade for this project is made up of these supporting documents.

DUE DATES	
Thursday, November 20th	Annotated Bibliography Rough Draft DUE; In-Class Peer Review Workshop
Tuesday, November 25th	Part One Rough Draft DUE; In-Class Peer Review Workshop
Tuesday, December 2nd	Final Paper Rough Draft DUE; In-Class Peer Review Workshop; Peer Response Letter Partners Assigned
Thursday, December 4th	Peer Response Letter DUE
Tuesday, December 9th 8am - 10:30am	Final Project and All Supporting Documents DUE; Informal Presentations; and Par-tay

NOTE: If you would like to pursue a special project for this final paper (for example: a video essay, an audio podcast, an interactive website, etc.), please see me for specific guidelines. While I am more than happy to let you pursue a more creative option, you will still need to complete written portions of this project.

