

ENG 615: Prospectus

Your project prospectus is due week 9 (March 22 or 24). Here are some formal suggestions. I welcome your questions or comments about this assignment, or the project as a whole.

The prospectus should:

1. Indicate the specific collaborative learning concepts or problematics you would like to engage in your final project,
2. explain your interest in these particular topics,
3. connect your ideas to relevant scholarly work in composition, or related fields, and
4. provide clarification of the form of your project.

I've already asked you to begin with a topic that's useful and interesting for you, and in class we've discussed some of the ideas shared with me by email. We also discussed the two imperatives Greg Myers includes early in "Reality, Consensus, and Reform in the Rhetoric of Composition Teaching"—always approach your work with a sense of history, and don't reinvent the wheel. Please keep both those things in mind as you select an area for research.

As you consider a topic, find out what's already been written about the ideas you are working with. This will help you evaluate your topic(s), and provides more angles for your investigation.

Plan to include a list of sources that you've investigated, as well as any you are considering but have not yet read—but more importantly, explain your reasons for being interested in these texts. The course readings provide a good start; as I've done for the syllabus, you can cast a wide net, looking outside of rhetoric and composition for primary and secondary sources. If you have questions about research methodology, let me know; we can devote some class time to it.

When describing the form your project will take, you don't have to be exhaustive, but any details will help me—especially if you aren't writing a traditional seminar paper. However, even if you are planning to pen an essay, I would like you to discuss the form you plan to use, and your reasoning for using it.

Suggestions:

- If you are considering more than one possibility, write up all of them—that process will help you decide which one is more viable, and will allow me to do the same. Include rankings or commentary which helps me understand your work.
- Those of you who've written annotated bibliographies or research proposals in other contexts: feel free to use that format for this prospectus, as long as you hit each of the four points I list above (so you might supplement an A. B. with more explanation).
- If you plan to mix academic analysis and the production of other documents, such as activities for classes you teach, make sure to describe the non-academic forms as well.
- You'll be presenting part of your research at our class mini-conference May 3 or 5. If you have ideas about how your larger project maps onto a 10 minute presentation, I'd love to hear them.
- Two persnickety notes about form: no plastic folders or sleeves, please. Also, make sure your name is on every page of your prospectus.