

## **ENG 615: Project workshop & mini-conference**

In week 13, our class will be a project workshop. Our last class meeting, in week 15, will emulate an academic conference. This handout provides a little written guidance about each of those respective days. Please feel free to contact me or email the class list if you have questions about these activities.

### **Workshop (April 19 or 21)**

At this point in the semester, you should have a substantial draft of your project underway. Bring four copies of this draft, in whatever condition it stands, to class. You will turn in one copy to me, and keep three to use in a workshop with two other students.

Read the other projects of the students you are paired with, taking notes and marking up the drafts as needed. Then discuss their relative strengths and weaknesses, as you would in a writers' workshop. If you can recommend areas where more research is needed, or even specific texts to read, do so. I'll be available to provide feedback and suggestions as well. (Additionally, I'll take my copy of your draft home and email you a critique shortly thereafter.)

This will not be a very structured activity, so feel free to move around as needed. We'll be meeting in a location where computers are available, if you need to do a little research. It should also be possible to get coffee or a snack, so please do that if you like.

If you have time, prepare a list of any questions you have about your project, to ensure your workshop partners address all your concerns—and if you do this, make sure I get a copy as well.

### **Mini-conference (May 3 or 5)**

Many of you have attended academic conferences; for those of you who have not, this should be a valuable (and hopefully enjoyable!) experience.

I will divide our class into panels of two or three students based on topics (those of you working on similar content will present together). Each of you will talk about your project for five to eight minutes. Then we'll have ten to fifteen minutes of comments, questions, and answers. We'll repeat this process until everyone has presented. Then we'll go have a drink (for those who don't have a long drive to face) and wish each other a happy end of the semester.

So, you need to prepare a five to eight minute presentation. This is a very small amount of material—two to three double-spaced pages. Because of this limited length, please avoid introductions or general content we've already discussed. (This material might make it into your final project, but for this presentation, it's not relevant.) Instead, hone in on one of the central ideas or problems you deal with in your project. You can prepare handouts, but keep them to one page—and don't plan to read extensively from them. Avoid long quotes—paraphrase instead. Also, please practice your presentation, so you won't run over your allotted time. (In general, these are good habits for academic presentations!)

I won't provide extensive feedback to you after this presentation, since you'll only be presenting part of your project. However, if you have specific questions you'd like me to address, please feel free to bring something for me to read and email you about after class.