

The assignment

Final project

15-20 pages

15-minute presentation

We've spent a great deal of time this semester discussing the ways scholars use writing, the ways we use writing in response to the work of others, the ways we anticipate our writing being used by others. We've read and talked about what it means to enter into multiple and competing discourses, what happens when we misrecognize a discourse, and how the multiple discourses of the field of composition studies have shifted over the years since its formation. We've talked about the complex relationships between reading and writing and what it means to identify as a writer.

For this assignment, I'd like you to analyze a disciplinary conversation in your subfield of English Studies from this perspective. Read four or five articles on an issue that is of current concern in children's literature or creative writing or linguistics or literary and cultural studies and examine the ways scholars use texts. How do they respond to one another? How do they cite one another? What do their reporting verbs suggest about their affective stance toward the work they cite? To what extent, if any, does writerly identity figure into scholars' work? Do scholars in your field articulate in any way an awareness of the work accomplished by texts?

You may draw on any of the work we've read together this semester as you do this work.

During the last two weeks of class, you will present a 15-minute version of your analysis. I expect this presentation to be as polished as it would be for a professional conference. You do not have to read a paper aloud, but I do want you to be prepared to present your work professionally.