

ENGL 103

Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois
University

WP3: Making Change

Description

WP3 is a freeform persuasive project that combines what we learned from WP1 and WP2. In its simplest form you will need to persuade someone of something. Like WP1, you have radical freedom in terms of genre and media. The choices regarding audience, genre, and media should be intentional and related to your persuasive goals. Like WP2, you will need to pay close attention to specific rhetorical strategies, and you will need to gather evidence to support your claims. Also like WP2 this is a collaborative project and you are encouraged to work in small groups. Unlike WP1 and WP2, WP3 additionally requires you to integrate other perspectives into your own argument, demonstrating both summary and source integration.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this writing project, students will be able to:

- Identify specific problems and attempt to solve them by identifying and influencing real people.
- Employ media and genre appropriate to the rhetorical situation.
- Mindfully make and reflect on rhetorical choices within that rhetorical situation.
- Work productively in a group setting.
- Integrate outside perspectives into your argument.

Requirements

Choosing a Topic

The topic you choose must be arguable (meaning more than one side exists), significant (impacts a number of people), and local (limited in scope). You might identify a local problem and present solutions, or you might identify an opportunity and present justifications, or something in between.

Proposals	Before you begin work on your project, you must write a proposal in which you detail what your topic is, who your target audience is, and what media and genre you plan to employ.
Group Contracts	Group projects should clearly detail who is in charge of what responsibilities, exactly what they must turn in to their peers (including length, media, etc.), and when these responsibilities are due.
Joining the Conversation	Your project must include and integrate at least 2 outside perspectives, and at least one of these perspectives must represent an opinion contrary to your proposed solution.
Presentation	Your group will present your persuasive project to the rest of the class and optionally to the audience identified in the proposal. Overall, the project should be about 1200 words . Video or audio-based media should be between 5 and 10 minutes in length, should be well-edited, and should follow all the formatting conventions associated with that media and genre.
Reflection	As with WP1 and WP2, your reflection will account for 50% of your grade for WP3. While the project will be composed collaboratively with your peers, the reflection will be written individually. Like with WP1 and WP2, you will focus on choices made in the creation of your project, <i>but you will also</i> include practices that you used to work together with your peers. The reflection should be about 800 words .
Submission	Please submit both project and the reflection through Blackboard. Group evaluations should be emailed to me individually. Please approve any alternative methods to submit your materials with me in advance.
Collaboration Reports	You'll be asked to finish several collaboration reports through the project. These should be submitted individually by email. In each collaboration report, please assess the contribution of each group member, including yourself.
Due Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals and group contracts are due on Friday, Oct 31 • Completion drafts are due on Monday, November 10 • Revision drafts are due on Friday, November 21

Completion Drafts

Completion drafts are graded simply on demonstrating a basic understanding of the requirements. Grades for completion drafts aren't an indication of how well you'll do on the revision draft. To get full credit for the completion draft, you must do the following:

Choose a problem

Choose a topic of appropriate scope and identify stakeholders.

Choose media and genre

Choose a media and genre appropriate to the topic and the audience/situation.

Outside Perspectives

Include at least 2 outside perspectives in your project, at least one of which must be represent a position different than your proposed solution.

Provide a reflection

Include an individual reflection as part of your draft that explains what choices you made in selecting and solving the problem, what choices you made in designing the recommendation report, and what methods your group used to work together. Like with previous writing projects, the reflection is 50% of your completion draft.

Completion Draft Grading

Reflections will be graded as usual for completion drafts. The completion draft for the report will be graded as a whole group, *but* please follow up with the instructor if someone has not completed their part.

Revision Drafts

Revision drafts are graded on the criteria below. Each criterion is evaluated as "exceptional," "met," or "not met." If all of the criteria are "exceptional," you will earn an A. If they are all "met," you will earn a C. One or more criteria in the "not met" column may result in an F.

Grading Criteria: Reflection	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
1. Reflecting on topic	You have clearly explained both how your group selected the problem/opportunity to focus on and how your solution fits the situation. Reasons for these selections are convincing.	You have explained how your group selected the problem/opportunity to focus on and how the proposed solution fits that scenario.	The group's choice of problem and solution is not included or unclear.
2. Reflecting on Media	Your discussion of media and genre links the form of the persuasive project to the specific audience(s) you are attempting to influence.	You have explained why your group chose the specific media and genre you used.	The choice of media or genre is unclear.
3. Reflecting on Your Evidence	You have clearly explained why your group provided the specific evidence for both the problem and the solution. You discuss how and why you chose to represent outside voices in the ways you did.	You have explained why your group provided the specific evidence for both the problem and the solution (including how you represent outside voices).	The choice of evidence is not included or unclear.
4. Reflecting on Your Audience	You have explained specific choices your group made to influence your audience. These choices are likely to have a positive impact.	You explained how your group's choices influence your audience.	How the group's choices influenced the audience is not included or unclear.
5. Reflecting on Your Teamwork	You have clearly explained what methods your group used to successfully work together and have included things you would do differently next time based on your experience.	You explain what methods your group used to successfully work together.	The methods used to work together are not included or are unclear.

Grading Criteria: Report	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
1. Choosing a topic	Your topic is of appropriate scope with a clear set of stakeholders and a clear sense of the larger set of conversations in which this topic participates.	You have selected a topic of appropriate scope and with a clear set of stakeholders.	The topic selected is unclear or of inappropriate scope.
2. Choosing a vehicle	Your choices of medium and genre are well-aligned with your task and executed proficiently.	You have selected a medium and a genre appropriate to your persuasive goals.	The choice of media and genre may jeopardize the success of persuasive goals.
3. Joining the discussion	Your project seamlessly integrates multiple perspectives accurately and critically.	Your project joins an existing conversation by representing what others have said about this topic.	The project fails to incorporate outside sources or integrates sources irrelevant to the topic.
4. Next Steps	Your specific and appropriate solution is presented as the best of several possible solutions with advantages and disadvantages acknowledged.	Your project identifies a solution and identifies at least 1 concrete step the reader can take to move the project forward.	A solution for the problem is not provided or is not reasonably actionable.
5. Responding to Feedback	You have revised your report substantially and/or thoughtfully based on both your peers' and your instructor's feedback.	You have revised your project based on both your peers' and your instructor's feedback.	No revisions to the report have been made or only minor changes have been made that do not adequately respond to feedback.
6. Meeting Requirements	You have met or exceeded all of the requirements for the report.	You have met all of the requirements for the report.	One or more of the requirements has not been met for the report.

Grading Criteria: Report	Exceptional	Met	Not Met
7. Meeting Responsibilities	You have contributed to your project as described in your proposal and have worked well with your team to meet goals and integrate materials.	You have contributed to your project as described in your proposal.	One or more pieces assigned in the proposal was not completed, or responsibilities of other group members were taken from them without discussion.
8. Providing Group Evaluations	You have provided an individual group evaluation that explains in detail each members' contributions to the project and evaluates their performance.	You have provided an individual group evaluation that explains each members' contributions to the project.	The group evaluation is not provided, is written as a group, or does not clearly explain members' contributions.
9. BONUS: Sending Your Project	You have sent your project to your audience and provided proof of the audience's receipt.	--	--