

# ENGL 103

## Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois  
University

### WP3: Study Design

#### Description

After WP2, you now have significant experience using AI with writing. For WP3, you'll create a hypothesis about AI use and design methods to test that hypothesis. To do so, you must create a statement that's provable one way or the other, e.g. "Tomorrow it will rain." Then, you'll provide a clear explanation of data gathering and analysis methods that would help you either prove or disprove your statement, such as observations, interviews, surveys, or scientific experimentation. You must explain how your methods would prove or disprove your statement.

#### Learning Outcomes

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

- Create a provable claim.
- Design methods to prove or disprove a claim.
- Design primary research gathering methods.
- Use secondary research to help make points.
- Reflect critically on AI use.
- Explain choices in research design.

#### Requirements

##### Making a Statement

The central part of WP3 is making a statement. The statement must be possible to prove true or false and must specifically focus on AI use and writing. For example, you might say "AI use improves outlines for first year students" or "AI use interferes with writing improvement." The statement must be explained clearly as part of your project, including defining any terms that may be vague.

**Designing Data  
Gathering  
Methods**

Once you have a clear statement, you must design a method to prove the statement true or false. Methods could include observations, interviews, surveys, scientific experimentation or other means. You may use more than one method to prove or disprove your statement. All pieces of your methods must be included. For example, if you plan to use a survey, the draft of the survey questions must be included.

**Integrating  
Secondary  
Research**

At least one secondary source must be included in your project. The secondary source can either help you design your statement, can help you design your methods, or both. Secondary research must be cited, quoted, and integrated into your study design document.

**Reflection**

A reflection on how you came up with your statement and your research design is worth 50% of your grade for WP3. Reflections should be at least **1000 words** and may include multimodal elements.

**Submission**

Please submit both project and the reflection through Blackboard. Please approve any alternative methods to submit your writing project with me in advance.

**Due Dates**

- Completion drafts are due on **Wednesday, November 4**
- Revision drafts are due on **Wednesday, November 11**

**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:

**Make a  
Statement**

Make a provable statement about AI. Explain the statement clearly and why it's important.

**Design a Study**

Create a series of research methods to prove your statement true or false. Explain the methods clearly.

**Use Secondary  
Research**

Include at least one piece of secondary research to support your statement or your study design, including a citation and quote.

**Provide a  
reflection**

Include a reflection that explains why you've chosen your statement and why it's important as well as why the research methods you've chosen will prove your statement true or false clearly.

## Revision Drafts

Revision drafts are graded using the checklists below. If you do not check all the boxes in the C column, your project will get an F. In order to get grades in a certain column, *all* of the boxes in that column must be met. All revision drafts must be uploaded to your portfolio. Revision drafts will not be graded unless you have submitted **both a study design document and a reflection.**

## Reflection Checklist:

C	B	A
	You have completed all of the requirements in the C column plus:	You have completed all of the requirements in the C and B columns plus:
✓ You have explained why you have chosen your statement.	✓ You have explained why your statement is an important thing to know.	✓ You have explained what benefits there will be to students or teachers if we know the answer to the statement.
✓ You have explained why you have chosen your research methods.	✓ You have explained why your research methods will effectively prove your statement true or false.	✓ You have explained why your research methods are the best available to you, including why other methods would be less appropriate or effective.
✓ You have explained how your methods will prove your statement true or false.	✓ You have explained how you would analyze your data to show if your statement is true or false.	✓ You have included an example of appropriate data analysis.
✓ You have explained how you chose your secondary sources.	✓ You have explained why your secondary sources help to inform your choices in the project.	✓ You have explained how your secondary sources help to add to your credibility.
✓ Your reflection includes what grade you think you have earned for the reflection part of this assignment.	✓ You have revised your reflection after the completion draft based on your peers' and my feedback.	✓ You have explained what changes you made to your reflection based on feedback and why you chose to make those changes.

## Study Design Checklist:

<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
	You have completed all of the requirements in the C column plus:	You have completed all of the requirements in the C and B columns plus:
✓ You have a clear statement about writing and AI to guide your research.	✓ You have explained the statement's meaning in detail including defining relevant words.	✓ You have explained why the statement is important to understand for students and/or teachers.
✓ Your statement is possible to prove true or false.	✓ Your statement has not already been clearly demonstrated as true or false.	✓ You have explained what information would be necessary to prove your claim true or false.
✓ You have a series of methods to prove your statement true or false.	✓ All necessary pieces of your methods (such as survey questions) are included.	✓ You have explained your methods in detail. A researcher could carry out these methods.
✓ You have integrated at least one secondary source, including a citation and a quotation.	✓ You have integrated the secondary source in a way that helps you justify your statement or methods.	✓ You have integrated two secondary sources, at least one that helps you justify your statement and at least one that helps justify your methods.
✓ Your reflection includes what grade you think you have earned for the study design part of this assignment.	✓ You have revised your study design document after the completion draft based on your peers' and my feedback.	✓ You have explained what changes you made to your study design document based on feedback and why you chose to make those changes in your reflection.