

ENGL 103

Rhetoric & Composition I



Northern Illinois
University

WP3: Research 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 testing. 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.
- 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.

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 testing or other means. It's likely that you'll 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 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 integrated into your design and must be cited.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion drafts are due on Wednesday, April 8 • Revision drafts are due on Wednesday, April 15

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.
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.

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 your statement.	✓ You have explained why your statement is an important thing to know.	✓ You have explained what benefits there will be to others if we know the answer to the statement.
✓ You have explained 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.
✓ 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.
✓ You have explained whether you have used AI on this project.	✓ You have explained exactly how you have or have not used AI in this project in detail.	✓ You have explained why using AI or not was the best option available to you for this project.
✓ Your reflection includes what grade you think you have earned for the reflection and the study design.	✓ You have responded to my feedback and your peers' feedback on your completion draft and revised accordingly.	✓ You have explained why you have chosen to take some advice but not other advice.
✓ You have uploaded your reflection to your portfolio.		

Study Design 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 a clear statement about writing and AI to guide your research.	✓ You have explained the statement's meaning in detail.	✓ You have explained why the statement is important to understand.
✓ Your statement is possible to prove true or false.	✓ Your statement has not already been clearly demonstrated as true or false.	✓ The educational benefits of your statement are clearly explained.
✓ You have a series of methods to prove your statement true or false.	✓ You have explained your methods in detail. A researcher could carry out these methods.	✓ You have provided all necessary instruments (such as surveys or interview questions) to carry out your methods.
✓ You have integrated at least one secondary source.	✓ 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.
	✓ You have revised your remediation after the completion draft.	✓ You have responded to my feedback and your peers' feedback on your completion draft and revised accordingly.
✓ You have uploaded your project to your portfolio.		