

ENGL 629

History & Theories of Composition



Northern Illinois
University

Exploration Project

Description

Choose (or find) one article or book chapter that covers an area of composition theory or pedagogy that we're not already covering in class (or aren't covering fully). Present what you learned from the text and guide a discussion on your chosen topic.

The Pieces

The Article or Chapter

Find an article or book chapter that includes a new perspective or additional insights on composition theory or pedagogy. An ideal choice would cover something we didn't cover (or didn't cover fully) in other readings for class. Newer readings are preferred.

The Presentation and Discussion

Present the content of your article or chapter in a *very* brief presentation (no more than 5 minutes). Use your reading to craft interesting discussion questions and/or activities about your reading. In total, your presentation, discussion, and activities should last no more than 30 minutes.

The Reflection

Prepare a short (500-1000 word) reflection covering your experience. The reflection should cover four things:

- Why you chose your article or chapter. In particular, what did it add to the class?
- How you designed your presentation. What choices did you make in presenting the information concisely?
- How you designed your discussion questions and activities. What did you hope your classmates would get out of them?
- How everything went. What went well and what would you do differently in the future?

Grading Contract

Choose the level of grade you'd like for this assignment and complete *all* of the criteria for that column. If you are unsure if you are completing a criterion, please ask. If B+ criteria are not met, your grade will be a B or lower depending on the circumstances.

Grades	A	A-	B+
Choose	You have selected a reading that deals directly with a topic not already covered in class. The reading is recent (2023 or newer) and peer reviewed.	You have selected a reading that wasn't covered in the class fully and/or is fairly recent. It may or may not be peer reviewed.	You have selected a reading that has some overlap with other topics already covered and/or your reading was not approved by Ryan in advance.
Present	Your presentation covers the basics of the reading as well as connects to other readings in the class succinctly.	Your presentation covers the basics of the reading as well as connects to other readings in the class.	Your presentation covers the basics of the reading and/or connects well to other readings in the class.
Discuss	You have prepared more than three discussion questions and one meaningful activity.	You have prepared three discussion questions and one activity.	You have prepared three discussion questions or one activity.
Reflect	Your reflection covers all four required topics clearly and succinctly.	Your reflection covers all four required topics.	Your reflection covers three of the four required topics.

Due Date

- Exploration Project readings are due on **March 5th**
- Exploration Project presentations and discussions are due **March 17th-26th**
- Exploration Project reflections are due on **March 26th**