

ENGLISH 1105: ASSIGNMENT SHEET

UNIT 4: ARGUMENTS ACROSS GENRES

ENGL 1105-92668
Pamplin Hall 3010, 8:00-9:15
Fall Semester 2010
Mr. Gogan
Email: Brian.Gogan@vt.edu

Office: Shanks Hall 340B
Office Hours: 11am-6pm
T/TR & by appointment
Office Phone: 540-231-2831
Home Phone: 414-217-5877

Overview of Unit Assignments

- 1 Letter to the *Collegiate Times* Editor
- 1 Oral Editorial
- 2 Short Writings
- 2 Peer Reviews

Your Argumentative Paper

Description

Unit 4 asks you to revise an earlier argument (from Unit 2 or Unit 3) and then transfer that argument from one genre (the thesis support paper) to two different genres (the letter-to-the-editor and the oral editorial).

Genre 1: You will begin by revisiting your paper from Unit 2 or Unit 3 and considering it in terms of a public argument. In other words, you will need to engage with your earlier paper by contemplating how it works as a cultural argument. That is, you will need to consider the public dimensions and public assumptions that are fused into this argument.

You may find it useful to ask yourself the following questions:

1. How do I understand the concept of “public”?
2. What is my paper’s argument?
3. In what ways could my paper’s argument be applied to a current issue in public?
4. What is my paper’s inquiry issue or inquiry topic?
5. In what ways does my paper’s issue appear in public?
6. What are the assumptions that connect to this claim or this issue?
7. In what ways do the assumptions that connect to this claim or this issue show up in public?

Letter to the *Collegiate Times* Editor

Description

Genre 2: After configuring your argument from your thesis-support paper, you will rewrite or “transfer” this argument to a second genre, the letter-to-the-editor (L2E). This assignment component will build on SW 13. A successful transfer of your argument will draw upon our class’s inquiry into the genre of the L2E, specifically the *Collegiate Times* L2E. To be clear: A successful transfer will entail new ideas, new prose, and new rhetorical strategies—this assignment component is much more than cutting, copying, and pasting.

Purpose

- To emphasize the (dis)connections between argumentative discourse and public discourse.
- To discern the genre conventions of a given public.

Audience

- The *Collegiate Times* Editor
- The Virginia Tech Community

Format

- Adhering to the *Collegiate Times* “Letter to the Editor” submission guidelines.

Oral Editorial

Description

Genre 3: After constructing your argument as a thesis-support paper and a L2E, you will transfer this argument to one last, primarily oral, genre: The oral editorial. This assignment component will build on SW 14. Additionally, this editorial will comprise your formal group oral presentation of the semester and will be presented on either 11/30 or 12/02.

Purpose

- To promote an awareness of genre transfer (a written argument into an oral argument and an oral argument into a visual argument).
- To effectively present on a topic of interest to a group of your peers.

Audience

- A listening audience of concerned community members.

Format

- Group presentation (4-5 minutes per speaker)
- 1 page group handout
- 1 additional visual aide (Power Point, poster, etc.)

Grading Criteria

Presentation

- How engaging was the editorial?
- How well did the presenter make eye contact with the audience?
- How effective was the presenter's volume?
- How effective was the presenter's movement?

Oral Argument

- How clearly was the argument articulated for a listening audience?
- How well organized was the information?
- How effectively was supporting details used throughout the editorial?

Visual Argument

- How well was the visual incorporated into the editorial?
- How effectively did the visual forward an argument?

Handout

- How effective was the handout?

Ethos

- How well did the editorial convey an *ethos* of a credible college student researcher?

Cohesiveness

- How well did the group work together?

Short Writings

Description

SW 13 (in-class): Using your argument from either your Unit 2 paper or your Unit 3 paper, draft an L2E to the *Collegiate Times*.

SW 14 (in-class): Rewrite your L2E as an editorial. This editorial will form the basis for your group's Oral Presentation.

Format

- Typed
- Double-spaced
- Use the heading (above) in the upper left-hand corner of your SW

Peer Review

Due:

11/16 (Letter to the Editor)

11/18 (Unit 2 or Unit 3 Paper)