

RHETORIC & COMPOSITION 002 ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Unit 2: Narrative Literacy

RHETCOMP 002-1076 (T/TH 12:35-1:50)
OFFICE: Coughlin 249
SPRING SEMESTER 2007
MR. GOGAN
EMAIL: brian.gogan@marquette.edu

OFFICE HOURS:
T/TH 2:00-3:30
(& by appointment)
OFFICE PHONE: 288-3057 Ext. 5
HOME PHONE: 414-217-5877

I. ASSIGNMENTS

- 1 Thesis-Support Essay
- 1 D2L Posting
- 3 Short Writings (SWs)
- Oral Presentations (OPs)
- Paper Brief

II. THESIS-SUPPORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Purpose:

- To enhance your narrative literacy and, hence, your critical thinking about the public sphere.
- To demonstrate that you understand textual, cultural, and ethical conventions of narrative.
- ***To demonstrate that you can develop and sustain an argument (as a critical thinking skill).***

Writer's Task

- Write a thesis-support paper that examines a textual, cultural and/or ethical question suggested by Vietnam narratives and that uses narrative conventions as evidence. Use at least 3 research sources (Excluding *Critical Literacies*). The paper should demonstrate (1) that you understand the textual, cultural, and/or ethical conventions of narrative and (2) that you can develop and sustain an argument.

Audience:

Teacher & classmates who are part of our class conversation and as equally informed as you on the Vietnam narratives and who are curious to see how you are linking textual, cultural, and/or ethical dimensions of narrative.

Format:

5–6pp. double-spaced. Use the following heading in the upper left-hand corner of your essay:

Your Name
RhetComp 002-1076
Mr. Gogan
Spring 2007
Unit 2 Paper

Essay Grading Criteria:

1. Purpose/Audience Negotiation:
 - Clearly define a topic that examines a cultural and/or ethical question related to a narrative
 - Appropriately address the class and the teacher as an audience who are part of our class conversation and as equally informed as you on the Vietnam narratives and who are curious to see how you are linking textual, cultural, and/or ethical dimensions of narrative
2. Organization:
 - Effectively organize (a) the ¶s in the paper and (b) of the information within each ¶
 - Effectively introduce and conclude the essay
 - Effectively use a thesis statement to present your stance & organize the paper
3. Development:
 - Clearly state general points (as reasons that support the thesis)
 - Effectively employ particular details as evidence (from the selected narrative, from research sources, and/or from your own personal experiences/observations/reasoning)
 - How well is the research source integrated into the writer's prose as evidence for the writer's own claims?
4. Writerly ethos:
 - Employ engaged, confident, authoritative voice

5. Readability:

- Employ sentences whose shape (length, punctuation, wording . . .) does not interfere with meaning
- Employ effective citation practices: **APA parenthetical citation & Reference page?**

APA: Ebenkamp, B. (Ed.). (2006). College communications 101. In K. Ratcliffe (Ed.), *Critical literacies* (3rd ed., pp. 296-297). Boston: Pearson Custom. (Reprinted from *Brandweek*, 2005, August 22).

III. D2L POSTINGS

Please see the D2L discussion board for instructions.

Due Dates:

D2L #1 (before 2/22)

IV. SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (SW) AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS (OP):

Purpose

- The sequenced SWs are intended to help you think about your essay topic so that you can revise your ideas as we proceed through the unit. If appropriate for your paper, your SW's *may be incorporated into your final essay*.
- The OPs are intended to help you become comfortable speaking in front of a group & giving briefs.
- You may always exceed the word count specifications.

Writer's Task and Due Dates:

SW 1 (Th 2/8): Narrate a scene from Vietnam, using an unusual narrative point of view.

Discourse Conventions:

- write 450 words for a listening audience; bring 1 copy to class
- use specific details to give the narrator a distinct voice/tone

OP 1 (Th 2/8): Formal—5 students will read their SW #1

- present effectively for a listening audience

SW 2 (T 2/20): List 5 potential paper topics.

Discourse Conventions:

- Describe **each** potential topic with a 75-100 word paragraph.

SW 3 (Th 2/22): (A) Compare and Contrast any two narratives discussed in class (a list, 100-150 words).

(B) Select one similarity/difference from (A).

(C) Write one well-developed question that “Vietnam” raises for you.

(D) Answer question from (C) in 200 words.

OP 2 (Th 2/22): Informal—All students read SW #3 to a small group

- present effectively for a listening audience

Audience:

Teacher & classmates

Format

Use same paper heading as for your essay.

SW & OP Credit Criteria: *You will receive credit for doing the SWs and OPs if you have*

1. Completed them and brought them to class (or presented in class) on assigned dates
2. Shown evidence of having employed the above discourse conventions for each SW & OP.

V. PAPER BRIEF

[6 people for this unit; the rest of you will speak in other units]

1. **Purpose:**
 - *To help you become comfortable speaking in front of a group*
 - *To give you practice giving brief summaries*
 - *To demonstrate your visual literacy*
2. **Audience:**
 - A listening audience (See D2L handout).
3. **Format:**
 - Speak for 5-minutes. You may use notes/outline but do not simply read your paper.
[Hint: 5 min speech equals @ 2 double-spaced pages]
4. **Content:**
 - Brief the class on your topic for essay 1
5. **Organization:**
 - In a summary/brief, (1) define your topic, (2) state your thesis, (3) give main points (reasons) that support your thesis (Use particular details sparingly)
6. **Style:**
 - Formal Briefing
7. **Visual aids:**
 - Should show your grasp of visual literacy (For instance, an effective PowerPoint).

Due Dates:

T 2/27 Peer Review Session: Draft of essay 2 due, along with author sheet & 2 peer review sheets

Th 3/1 Unit Two Portfolio due: Final Paper; Draft; SWs; 2 Peer Review Sheets; Author Sheet

Th 3/1 Paper Briefs (If you signed up for Unit 2)

VI. UNIT 2 GRADE: (25 points) 25% of final course grade

The unit grade will be awarded to the final essay; *however*, short writings must be completed on due dates AND turned in with Portfolio One in order for you to receive full credit for the unit; otherwise, you may lose 1/2 (percentage) point for each SW not completed on time or included in your portfolio.