

## Everything but the Research Essay (Unit Four)

Writing strategies we're working on here:

**Rhetorical Awareness:** analyzing audience expectations, making conscious decisions about form and content of writing based on that analysis. **Critical thinking, reading, and writing:** using reading to work through ideas, support analysis with evidence, developing and pursuing a research interests. **Processes:** using reading and writing to develop ideas, identifying and reflecting on your writing/reading/research processes. **Use of conventions:** Analyzing and employing conventions of different genres, including MLA citations and conventions of standard English.

Possible readings for this assignment:

Your research reading (YOU [INSTRUCTOR] WILL NEED TO CONSIDER IF YOU WANT TO IDENTIFY/REQUIRE PARTICULAR KINDS OF SOURCES, EG.,

One article from a substantive periodical (e.g., Harper's, Atlantic Monthly, Mother Jones, National Review) – HALLE LIBRARY HAS A GREAT HANDOUT ON SUBSTANTIVE VERSUS ACADEMIC PERIODICALS

One source from a credible web site

(source from not credible sites, like popular mags and garbage-y web sites, for critique?)

In this essay you'll practice with research strategies that you'll build on in ENGL 121. Here, though, rather than write a research essay as you will in that class, you'll investigate the *kinds* of materials that one finds in the course of research. Specifically, you'll write about what genres of materials you found in your research, who the audience is for these genres, and how you think they might (or might not) be useful for a college research essay. But writing about genres (as you know by now) is quite broad. To focus your work, you'll need to think back on all of the writing and analysis we've done this term and write a question or series of questions, like the ones in this assignment, that focuses your work. <HERE, YOU WILL WANT TO PUT A MODEL OF THE KIND OF QUESTION THIS COULD BE, WHICH WILL DEPEND ON YOUR EARLIER ASSIGNMENTS.> Together, we'll work out a focus that works for you.

The first step in putting together this all-but-the-research essay is to identify a question that you'd like to learn more about. We'll work on this in class; to begin that work, though, you should think about a burning question that you have about almost anything. What are you interested in? What's something you'd like to learn more about? (FYI – in 121, you'll work a little more systematically to develop a research question, but for now, since our focus is actually on genres and process, this is fine.) We'll do some activities together in class to develop this.

Once you've identified a question, we'll head to Halle Library so that you can work on gathering the <X NUMBER OF SOURCES> you'll use in this essay. As you gather these sources you may decide that you want to tweak your question a bit. That's fine, but remember: the focus here isn't on "what I learned about my question," but "what kinds of sources I found." Because that **is** the focus, you'll want to keep a *very* careful, very systematic log of what you've done and how it led you to the sources you've located – that will be invaluable evidence for your LE.

After you've gathered sources, we'll work together in class on analyzing them so that you can respond to the question above.

SE 1: What's a burning interest? Possible questions?

SE2: What sources? How did you find them? What are they like?

as you identified and investigated a research question and describe your encounters with these genres. What did you find? What material was 'easy' and what made it that way? 'Hard' (and what made it that way)?

Everything but the research essay essay

Reflect-project – one genre you use now, one genre you expect to encounter. What are its characteristics? How do you use it? Why is it important? What will you have to learn/know/do in 121? ←tieto CSW – what am I interested in, what genres would I like to try, what research would I like to do, in 121?

Love and what personal or scholarly genres would look like to see why some information is meant for certain genres- switch between the personal to scholarly genres with the same word