

Blog Post (Individually Produced) -- 30% due Oct 12, Oct 26, Nov 16; you write once and comment twice)

As we talked about in class, your blog post is individually written, and it should be at least 750 words. Please don't write more than 1,500 -- think about your public audience and what they need to know to understand your argument. Readers' attention span for a blog post is usually much shorter than for an academic article or a book.

Your topic is up to you, but you need to generate a coherent, interesting argument about any one of the assigned readings or videos for the course. Your argument needs to be supported by evidence from that text. (As I mentioned in class, you don't have to do research, but you can if you'd like!)

As we'll talk about in class, public writing is different from traditional high academic writing. Your audience is broader, which impacts the kind/amount of evidence you provide, and your written tone is generally less formal than an academic article.

I want to see that you've seriously considered one of our course texts (again, it doesn't have to be a written text) and that you've crafted an argument about it that is interesting and supported by textual evidence as well as your own thoughts and observations!

Public Writing Research Group Project (and Group Presentation) -- 20% project due Dec. 20, presentations the last three weeks of class

The project should be presented on a public website (ours!). Throughout the semester, you'll update the class on where your group is, and I've provided signposts in the syllabus.

The format is up to you -- you can do public writing together, you can make a video, you can make slides, you can make a short podcast.

The presentation is just for our class, on Zoom. (Students sometimes say they hate group projects, but we'll talk throughout the semester about how to make them invigorating and fun. I promise you it is possible.) You'll have about 20 minutes per group - it's up to you how you divide up speaking/presenting roles. The presentation is primarily meant for sharing what your group has learned through the course of your research with the rest of the class. This means that you can have fun with it, and it does *not* have to be super formal.

We will co-develop the rubric (list of categories/things to achieve to get an A, B, etc) for both the project and the presentation together in class, in connection with our public writing learning and discussions.

Final Personal Reflection -- 20% due Dec. 20

This is a 3-5 page personal reflection on your general learning in the course, your experience of learning and doing public writing in the blog post (both writing it and commenting on others'), and what you think you brought to the group research project.

You don't have to have a thesis statement like in a formal paper, but you will need to engage thoroughly and reflectively with the three items listed in order to get full credit.

We can decide together if you'd like these to be public posts or just for me.