

Major Writing Project #2

Purpose: In the previous two assignments, we practiced taking an arguable position, supporting that position with detailed observations and insightful analyses, and appropriately incorporating secondary source material. This assignment will draw on these skills while asking you to experiment with an alternative genre of writing, using a style and tone appropriate to your purpose.

In preparation for this assignment, we'll discuss what we've learned this semester about the conventions of academic writing, and discuss how these conventions might differ from other genres of writing and communication.

Prompt: Identify a problem you've encountered this semester with how we understand space; how social interactions occur in particular spaces; or how particular spaces might intentionally or unintentionally produce belonging and/or exclusion. The problem you identify should be one not addressed in the short essay or MWP#1.

Develop a non-academic text that attempts to engage an audience other than fellow scholars in thinking about this problem. You are welcome to produce, for example, a zine, a website, a webcomic, a series of blog entries, an op-ed, a short story, or some other form of public written work. I'm flexible! Be creative and if you're not sure about your idea, run it past me! Develop a plan for distributing your text to a wider audience and be prepared to share this text and your plan in a final presentation during the last week of class.

A successful essay will:

- Fulfill the goals of your short essay and Major Writing Project #1, while also:
 - evaluating and carefully choosing from a wide-array of reliable source material.
 - carefully differentiating between your own claims and those of the scholars or activists you're in conversation with.
 - making careful choices about the role each source will play in advancing the larger argument.
 - using a style and tone appropriate to the genre and audience for this project.

You will meet with me to discuss the problem you wish to address and the genre you plan to work with on **Tuesday, March 17th**. As before, this project will require multiple drafts, the first of which will be due on **Thursday, April 2nd** (to Group Folders) and the second of which will be due, with a cover letter detailing revisions thus far, on **Friday, April 10th** (to Dropbox). You will feedback from your peers on the first draft and written feedback from me on the second, more refined draft. During the final week of class, you'll be asked to present your projects to the class.

Hints and Tips:

- First, consider the problem you want to address and then second, the audience you would like to address or be in conversation with about that problem. For example, do you

imagine yourself in conversation with policy makers or the business community? Queer activists or legal advocates? Durham residents or people across the United States?

- What are your goals for the project? Do you want to create space for an ongoing conversation? Convince particular people or organizations to take action, or support action already being taken? Help to advance research in a particular area? Create awareness within a particular occupational field or profession?
- Once you've identified your audience and your goals for the project, choose the genre in which you plan to write based on that audience and those goals. What types of genres/texts will allow you to reach and effectively appeal to your audience?
- Finally, what are the formal and rhetorical conventions of that genre and how will you as the author, meet the expectations of the genre?

Your final project will be due via Sakai on **Friday, April 24th at 11:55pm**