

### **Some Arrangement Patterns That Have Worked Well For Disciplinary Literacy Papers in the Past**

1. Some people have effectively organized their papers by having sections about each form of literacy being discussed.

A section about reading in the field/discipline

A section about writing in the field/discipline

A Section about researching in the field

A section about other forms of literacy that may emerge as important while you are doing your research (for example, oral presentation or social media skills)

Remember, while this form may seem easy to follow, it is not the best form for every paper of this kind.

2. Some people have gotten very creative in their decisions about how to organize this paper. One example is to create a narrative where you discuss the literacy skills needed for people being trained in the field (for example, students) and then follow the progression of how those needed skills change and/or are applied differently as you become a practicing member in the profession.

Another person created a narrative in which a person in the field goes through one week of work and the reading, writing, and researching done each day by that person are illustrated through the story of each day of that week.

3. Another way to organize the paper is by talking about how reading, writing, and/or researching are applied to the major activities done by professionals in that field. For example, if you are studying nursing you may discover that the main activities of a hospital nurse include caring for patients, keeping charts up-to-date, distributing medications, and updating and consulting with physicians. You could then arrange your paper so that each section discusses how reading, writing, and researching are applied to do each of these activities.

**REMEMBER:** No matter which plan you use you need an introduction and a conclusion. Also remember that you are writing to other undergraduate students who are interested in the discipline/field of study you are presenting about; they need to see you as an expert whose information they can trust and who has worked to present that information in a professional and engaging way.

## RAIDS BASE

1. • What is invention? (What activities did the writer have to engage in to create the text?)
2. • What is being invented? (What ideas, practices, arguments, worldview, etc. are created by the text?)
3. • What is arrangement? (What is being put in relationship with what?)
4. • What is being arranged? (How are things being put in relation to one another?)
5. • What is being revised? (What is the writer trying to change (e.g. what ideas, practices, worldviews, etc.?)
6. • What is revision? (What strategies are engaged specifically to help the writer achieve the revisions?)
7. • [What styles of language have been used to meet expectations in this situation?] What styles may be surprising to the reader? [Might some unexpected style choices be integrated successfully into the piece?] Which ones? How can/does the writer help readers understand the purpose of these unexpected style choices?
8. • What media have been used in the communication situation? What are the benefits and obstacles of those media choices? [How do delivery options affect the types of invention, arrangement, and style choices that have been/will be made?]

8  
say  
teaching  
books.

**Background:** Earlier assignments for this course gave you opportunities to identify your strengths and how those can enhance your literacy and to practice analysis in the interpretation of. We began the semester exploring how important curiosity and asking questions is to reading, writing, and researching in higher education, and we return to that issue more strongly as we move into the research essay assignment. This third project allows you to continue engaging effective invention, arrangement, revision, style, and delivery practices. It also introduces you to the ways that research and participating in important academic discussions prepare you to use literacy in successful ways across the kinds of writing situations you will find yourself in in higher educations and, perhaps, beyond.

**Requirements:** Different academic disciplines have different ways of **presenting and analyzing information, different ways of building knowledge, and different ways of presenting knowledge in written forms**. These differences are the result of responding to different kinds of things in different ways. This paper gives you the opportunity to begin building your own understanding of how writing, reading, researching, and perhaps other literacy skills such as oral presentation, operate within a discipline of interest to you. You may choose any discipline you wish to examine for this project. Whichever you choose, you must engage in at least the following invention activities:

- Analyze RAIDS in at least one scholarly article from that discipline
- Analyze RAIDS in at least one article from a trade publication related to that discipline

You must also do at least 4 of the following:

- Conduct an interview with a person who teaches major courses and/or does research in that discipline (please see me for the procedures for getting interviews with Nursing faculty if you want to interview someone in that department)
- Conduct an interview with a person who practices in a field related to that discipline and who is doing the kind of work you want to do
- Analyze an introductory piece about economic and quality of life issues related to the literacy work done in that discipline or career field
- Interview an MSU alum who has the degree you want
- Interview a senior in the major you want to pursue who is getting ready to transition out of MSU by spring 2015
- Use materials related to your research area that you collect at a job fair and/or interview a recruiter you met at a job fair

Your research will include additional reading and interviewing as determined by your individual projects. Papers must be at least 7-9 pages long, in 12-point font, with one-inch margins. You must include at least one visual in this paper; your visual should communicate a specific, important piece of information; graphs and charts are commonly used for this purpose.

**Writing Context:** Many students come to higher education with only a vague idea of what it means to become a participating member of an academic discipline. Your purpose in this essay is to give students who are new to the academic discipline/field you have chosen an introduction to the expectations for writing, reading, researching (and perhaps other literacy practices) in that discipline. Ultimately, your paper should help your audience understand the ways that literacies are used to create and communicate knowledge in the discipline/field you choose to explore.

This assignment gives you the opportunity to continue practicing successfully meeting the learning goals connected with previous assignments. It also helps you begin to integrate the skills related to the following learning outcomes. As always, the undergraduate learning outcomes that relate to our First-Year Writing Program Goals appear in parentheses.

#### Writing

- Demonstrate an understanding of writing as an epistemic and recursive process; effectively apply a variety of knowledge-making strategies in writing (integrated reasoning)

#### Reading

- Demonstrate an understanding of reading as an epistemic and recursive meaning making processes (integrated reasoning; cultural understanding)
- Understand that various academic disciplines and field employ varied genre, voice, syntactical choices, uses of evidence, and citation styles that call for a variety of reading strategies (analytical thinking; integrated reasoning; communication)

#### Inquiry/Research

- Demonstrate the ability to locate, critically evaluate, and employ a variety of sources for a range of purposes (analytical thinking; integrated reasoning)