

Prompt 1:

Consider these quotations that both address the role that chance and luck play in the research process:

"With a library, it is easier to hope for serendipity [i.e., fortunate coincidence] than to look for a precise answer." – Lemony Snicket

"There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something. You certainly usually find something, if you look, but it is not always quite the something you were after." – J.R.R. Tolkien

Do you agree with these two children's authors that research is more often a product of good luck, of stumbling onto the information you need, than of precision and deliberate planning? In a short first paragraph, discuss your reactions to these quotations. In a short second paragraph, provide some illustrative details from your own research process in WRI 102 this semester, using personal experience to explain your reactions.

Prompt 2:

Consider this quotation about the role that the writer's interpretation of information plays in the research process:

"Huge volumes of data may be compelling at first glance, but without an interpretative structure, they are meaningless." – Tom Boellstorff

Using this quotation as your starting point, discuss a time in WRI 102 when your own powers of interpretation or analysis were put to good use in relation to a researched source. In the first paragraph, react to Boellstorff's quotation and explain the data, evidence, or other researched information that you uncovered in a particular source (be sure to name the source). In the second paragraph, explain how your analysis, interpretation, discussion, or application of that data gave it special meaning within a paper's argument; discuss how you took that information from a particular resource and made it work within the context of your particular research project.

General advice:

- 1) Use first-person in both paragraphs of your discussion.
- 2) Refer directly to the quotation(s) provided as a way to start off your essay. No other introduction is needed; do not write a separate introductory paragraph with thesis statement – it's not necessary.
- 3) Do not worry about a transition into your second paragraph. Just follow the prompt instructions to shape the content.
- 4) Do not add a conclusion paragraph/section, either. Just end the second paragraph after you have addressed the prompt.
- 5) Take time to proofread and edit the document to the best of your ability.