

Discourse community research methods

Identify a discourse community you know fairly well and which you can brainstorm about. Here are some suggestions:

- One of our breast cancer community partners
- The fans of a television show, book series, or sports team
- A Purdue student organization or publication
- A local charity or civic organization
- Employees of a specific workplace
- People who support a specific political cause
- Customers of a specific business

Share your idea with me. I'll write it on the board. Then form groups of three to map out the ways you could study that discourse community (using your idea or another). Show how you would put our five methods to work:

1. preparatory research
2. observation
3. interviews
4. surveys
5. textual and genre analyses

Be as specific as possible. For example, what do you look for on the web? What interview questions would you write? Who would you survey and why? How many observations would you conduct? How would your interviews be related? Consult Deans and Driscoll as needed. Ask me questions as needed.

Deliverable: create a Google Doc titled "Research methods: NAME" and share it with your partners and cbdilger@gmail.com. If we have time today, we'll talk about one or two of these. We will come back to this next week when we consider what activity theory puts on the table.

Discourse communities to study

1. [IBCN \(Sam M. Ryan W. Heather Z. Kristen N\)](#)
2. [YWCA \(Danica. Spencer. Ariana\)](#)
3. [Habitat for Humanity \(Sam S. Tom G. Conner\)](#)
4. [Dance Marathon — Riley or other \(Christina. Kyle. Ryu\)](#)
5. [Food Finders — Soup Kitchen \(Ralph. Christine\)](#)