

Proposal for Discourse Community Autoethnography

BEFORE COMPLETING THIS ASSIGNMENT, PLEASE READ THE [ASSIGNMENT SHEET](#)

This assignment is a prelude of sorts to your paper. It gives you the opportunity to do some exploratory writing on your essay topic and allows me to approve of your topic. Remember that your topic should allow for multiple perspectives, be researchable through peer-reviewed sources (e.g. use the library database), and be relevant to you in some way. There are **two (2) parts** to this assignment, and you can answer all these questions as a numbered list:

First Part (200+ words):

You will answer **two (2) questions** for this part:

1. First, tell me your chosen discourse community. Next, explain your interest in the chosen discourse community and how you are involved in it.
 - a. Your community needs to be specific and one in which the members regularly interact with each other. Therefore, you cannot say you want to write on the “car community” or “people who like cars” because this is broad, vague, and too large of a group where members can regularly interact.
 - b. The community you write about can be serious or humorous. You can write about a fandom, a sport, a job, a hobby. If you feel you are literate in this community’s discourse, consider writing about it!
 - c. If you’re feeling stuck, [click here for a list of questions to guide your thinking for this part](#).
2. Articulate an interesting and *tentative* research question that will guide your paper. It’s OK if your question changes and develops throughout the writing process. Regardless, a research question is one that provides direction and spark to your paper. Not answerable with yes or no, a research question invites complexity.

So, for instance, here are some examples of simple (we don’t want this!) and complex (we want this!) research questions These have come from previous students:

Simple (don't do this!)

Are Speech Language Pathologists trained to view discourse a certain way?

Complex (do this!)

Speech Language Pathologists are often trained to “fix” speech. A lot of people are often unaware of what disordered speech looks like and may think a person talks “wrong” when it is just their dialect, and this most often affects individuals using AAVE (African American Vernacular English). How do pediatric speech language pathologists that work in the school system decide whether a child’s speech is disordered or if it is just their dialect? How do patients view their home language use and how, if at all, does it inform the way they act within school sessions, therapy sessions, and beyond?

Simple (don't do this!)

Does the military have negative language practices that affect their members?

Complex (do this!)

How, if at all, does the common military saying “embrace the suck” create a discourse amongst its members that contributes to the mental health crisis commonly found within its members?

Second Part (200+ words):

Next, you will detail the research you *would like to* consult in your essay. You are not bound to what you choose here because our writing is always evolving throughout the process. If these sources end up not being as useful as you thought they would, then you can scrap them later. Answer the below questions:

1. Briefly (bullet-points) identify some of the **sources** you think *you would like to* use. You need to:
 - a. **identify at least one (1) genre to analyze with one to two (1 to 2) examples of that genre.** There are plenty of routes you can take...a community’s Instagram or Facebook posts, YouTube videos, fanfiction, a website, podcasts, manuals, PowerPoints...if it is written and used by the community to achieve a social purpose/goal, it is a genre. Don’t overthink this word!
 - i. This genre must be used by your chosen community to accomplish a specific goal or mission.

- b. **Identify at least two (2) secondary sources** (peer-reviewed sources, books, and/or credible Internet sources written about the community and/or sources related to your research question). You can use one of the sources from this week's discussion board, if you'd like.
- c. Identify at least **one (1)** example of **field research** (identify who you are interviewing; this needs to be a member from your chosen community).
 - i. Students in the past have interviewed friends and family members. That is fine to do for the purposes of this project.
 - ii. For this question, tell me who you are interviewing and how this person relates to your chosen community. Please also tell me if you plan to interview them face-to-face or over Zoom/FaceTime/etc. You **cannot** interview someone over text or email.