

Orientation to Discipline Exercise

Purpose: To become more familiar with a specific discipline; to learn where to locate the elements of the rhetorical situation within a discipline

Task: Before you can think about taking part in a discipline, you must have some sense of what that discipline does and how the members of that community communicate with one another. Therefore, for this assignment, you will create a document that reflects a baseline understanding of one specific discipline. Using the resources listed below, please answer the following questions:

1. What are the citation styles often used in this discipline? If there is more than one, please select the one that appears to be used most often and highlight some of its general rules of format and style as they relate to this discipline
2. Are there other kinds of specific guidelines in regard to writing within this discipline?
3. What are some of the discipline's subdisciplines? How are they identified or categorized?
4. Who are the members of this discipline? What are their backgrounds? What kinds of research do they do?
5. What are some professional organizations associated with this discipline? How do you know? What kinds of issues, concerns, problems or areas of interest are highlighted through or in these organizations?
6. What are some professional conferences associated with this discipline? How do you know? What kinds of issues, concerns, problems or areas of interest are highlighted in or at these conferences?
7. What are some genres of text or writing that you have noticed? How are you able to identify those genres?
8. List five other relevant things you discovered about this discipline in terms of writing and researching within it.
9. List five interesting things you discovered about this discipline in general.

Submission and Formatting Instructions:

1. Please use the citation style of documentation that is reflective of the discipline.
2. Please indicate where all your information was gathered whether you cite it through footnote, endnote, or in-text citation.

Note: Remember that this document is supposed to be useful in orienting you to the basic qualities, values, interests, and writing styles of this discipline. You will not be able to gather every nuance of this discipline and may even misinterpret some information, but this will help you become familiar with the discipline before you begin to engage with it in your writing, researching, or study of your topic.

Preliminary resources (you are also welcome to find your own, but cite them):

Instructor provides resources – the following are examples of resources for Art History:

BU's "Department of History of Art & Architecture":

<http://www.bu.edu/ah/>

BU Libraries:

<http://www.bu.edu/library/research/collections/collection-development/cdah/>

BU Research Guides ("Art & Architecture"):

http://library.bu.edu/guides?b=s&group_id=5217

Clemson Libraries:

<http://libguides.clemson.edu/c.php?g=230406&p=1530068>

UNC's E-Research by Discipline:

<http://guides.lib.unc.edu/sb.php>

UNC's Writing for Specific Fields:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/>

from Duke University's Writing Studio:

<https://twp.duke.edu/sites/twp.duke.edu/files/file-attachments/visual-analysis.original.pdf>

How to Do Things with Pictures: A Guide to Writing in Art History:

http://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/writing_about_art_final_web.pdf