

# Project # 1- "Where Is It Now?"

## Current Trends in Your Major

### (individual - 125 points)

Every major has a different focus. What is the current status of your major, here at Michigan Tech and elsewhere. What is the current research, what are your faculty doing and is there a Enterprises in your area of expertise here at Tech? How does this compare with what is going on outside of Michigan Tech? What topics are covered in your major's journals? Every major has its own style of writing, design, composition and formatting that professionals in that area are expected to follow. What are the usual requirements in your major? What *citation style* is most often used? What other forms of communication are used within your major?

For this project you will compose a 3-5 page, double spaced paper addressing the current status of your major. You will approach this paper as outlined below, breaking the paper up into smaller, manageable pieces. You will be expected to use in-text citation as well as a bibliography of sources. Sources will include 2 interviews with professors in your major and 2-4 other sources, only one can be an online source. If you have questions about this assignment, please contact me.

#### **Proposal (10 points) Due: 18 January**

What is your major and what are you researching? The proposal will be a paragraph or two explaining your major. You will include the name of the professors you are going to interview as well as at least four questions you will ask (we will come up with more in class). List your journal sources if you have them already. If you are not sure, ask your professor for his or her recommendations. Also include any ideas you have on the project.

Once you have a rough idea of your direction, you will finalize at least five questions to ask your professors. Know these questions well and make sure they relate to your project. Conduct your interview and also ask the professor about other modes of communication in your major.

#### **Design Plan (10 points) Due: 23 January**

Follow the Design Plan layout, on the back of the "rhetoric" handout, to create a design plan for your group project. You will write a design plan for your project. In addition to a brief synopsis of your project at the beginning, you will also flesh out your ideas and the elements you intend to use for your argument. Be sure to hit all angles in your design proposal (purpose, audience, context, strategies, medium, arrangement, production and testing).

#### **Rough Draft (30 points) Due: 30 January**

For your rough draft, you will have a complete, but preliminary, draft of your final paper. This draft should be whole, as if you were turning it in for the final, which includes meeting the length and citation requirements. Bring two copies to class on this day - one for me, and one for classmates to read and consider.

#### **Final Draft (60 points) Due: 04 February**

This will be your final project paper. This must completely address your research questions to the satisfaction of your audience. It needs to be fully cited, using the citation method of your own preference. The paper must meet length and citation requirements with a bibliography. Bibliography does not add to the papers total length.

#### **Reflection (15 points) Due: 06 February**

Once you have completed this assignment, write a reflection on how you felt about the project. Were there any surprises in your major? What did you discover about your major that you expected? How do the styles and conventions of your major affect how others outside of your major's community perceive your major? The idea of a reflection is to give you a chance to think through what you just did and why. Look at the "Course Descriptions and Goals" section of my syllabus again. Which goals do you feel this assignment addressed? One to two pages (typed, double-spaced) should give you enough space to think your way through it, although you may feel free to expand and go over this if it helps you.

**\*\*Remember to keep ALL copies of your proposals, design plans, drafts and reflections for your Portfolio. Don't save over your originals, always rename the file before you revise.\*\***