

## Unit 3 Project: Design a Research Study

Imagine you're an ethnographic researcher studying the ways one of your discourse communities reads, writes, and uses language. (Probably you'll use the discourse community you observed during Week 11, but you could observe another community if you like.) Design a study inspired by one or more of the following *broad* questions (you'll come up with more narrow questions). You could also outline your own, if you're interested in something else:

- A. How does x type of participant in my discourse community use reading/writing texts/technologies to get work done within this group?
- B. What struggles do x type of students (athletes, majors, members of a particular racial, gendered, or linguistic group, etc.) face in writing classes?
- C. What would ease the transition from highschool to college writing for x type of students (athletes, majors, members of a particular racial, gendered, or linguistic group, etc.)?

To complete this project, you'll need to **1)** read some *existing research studies* (peer-reviewed sources) about reading and writing in your chosen discourse community, and possibly as it relates to writing classes, **2)** identify much more narrow *research questions* within the broad questions above, as you reflect on the research you've read and the observations you've made, and **3)** design a *study tool* that you think would help you answer your research questions. **4)** Submit a portfolio with your research components and discussions of each piece. *You will not write a research paper for this portfolio. You may try out your study tool and write briefly about your findings for extra credit.*

### Your Portfolio Should Include:

- . Revised Observation Notes (Week 11)
  - A. A list of 3-4 research articles that you would draw from to build your study, with 1-2 sentences of summary about each one and 2-3 sentences on how you would use it. (This is often called an **annotated bibliography**) (Week 12 + a couple sources)
  - B. Narrow, specific **research questions** and 1-2 paragraphs justifying them (Week 13)

C. A **study tool** (survey, interview questions, text-based analysis, etc.) with a 2-3 paragraph explanation of your design choices, hoped for results, and possible limitations (Week 14)

D. A **cover letter** that explains your process for building your project, what went well, where you struggled, what you'd do differently with more time/experience (you'll write this last, but put it first in your portfolio.)

#### **Due Dates:**

- ✓ **Weekly homework will *start* building each of these pieces**
- ✓ **Peer Review and Optional Conferences:** April 14-21 (Details TBD, but you'll likely submit *two* of the research study pieces for feedback)
- ✓ **Final Due Date: April 29, 2021 by 8 pm to the Blackboard Assignments Tab**