

WRT 104: Current Event/Observations Assignment



Option 1: Choose a current event (an article, a website, a demonstration, a law, etc) that relates to our course inquiry. This can be broadly about Writing as it functions in particular spaces, in relation to people or cultures. It could also be a current even that relates to the topics we've covered, such as Gender, Race, Class, Disability, and Contested Spaces.

In your presentation, you should:

1. Summarize the artifact (article, law, event, etc) for an audience that does NOT know about this event
2. Identify key stakeholders (who is involved in this, for what purposes, and to what end)
3. Explain how this event relates to our course topics by specifically referencing examples (key words, passages, quotations, images) from the readings and discussion
4. Pose questions to the class about how this artifact can help us better understand our discussions

For the written portion of this assignment, you will need to turn in:

1. Your artifact with annotations
2. A 2-page written reflection explaining why you chose this artifact, how it relates to the course and our inquiry, and why. (BE EXPLICIT HERE. EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES)
3. A list of your potential questions for discussion

Option 2: You will spend time (plan for at least 2-3 visits of an extended period) observing a place. This space can be a physical site, such as a park, building, area of Syracuse (West Side, the Hill, etc) or a digital space, such as a website. The purpose here is to think about how physical/digital spaces are constructed (who is excluded/included and how do you know? Who interacts with this space? Why?). When you choose a place to observe, you will want to think about a few things. First, be sure that you spend enough time observing this place (answering the questions on blackboard). Then, you'll need to make a claim(s) about this space in relation to our course. For instance, perhaps you want to think about how writing—as both a noun and verb—*functions* in this space (a coffee shop, the library, a community center, etc).

In the presentation, you should:

1. Discuss the place that you chose and why
2. Explain your observations in detail
3. Provide claims about your space in relation to our class inquiries about Writing, Gender, Race, Class, Disability, etc.
4. Explain how this event relates to our course topics by specifically referencing examples (key words, passages, quotations, images) from the readings and discussion
5. Pose questions to the class about how this space can help us better understand our discussions

For the written portion of this assignment, you will need to turn in:

1. The worksheet Questions to Consider with annotations and notes
2. A 2-page written reflection explaining why you chose this place, how it relates to the course and our inquiry, and why. (BE EXPLICIT HERE. EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES)
3. A list of your potential questions for discussion