**Unit 2: Writing in the Social Sciences––Group arcGIS Story Map and Presentation**

This unit is designed to allow you to practice researching a topic, synthesize information, visualize that information, and make a claim while presenting your presentation orally. Through this process, you and your group will learn about the various aspects of social science research and the rhetorical situation of presentations and public facing academic projects.

**RHETORICAL SITUATION CHART:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Genre**  | **Role**  | **Audience** | **Purpose** | **Rhetorical Situation** |
| arcGIS public-facing research | Student researcher in the social sciences.  | General public attending a UNC Public Humanities event. The general audience is preparing to vote in the upcoming election and are curious about issues of immigration in the United States | Sharing your research with the general public to help inform others with a visualization of rigorous, empirical research.  | You are presenting a public facing project at one of UNC’s “public humanities” events. Here, the audience is a mix of community members outside of UNC and students, faculty and staff within UNC.You must be prepared to interact with your audience and answer questions succinctly and clearly. |

**FEEDER 2.1: Group topic proposal, preliminary sources, visualization plan and research question**

**DUE: 9/29**

This assignment will help to get you on the path to the final project: a visual and oral arcGIS presentation of a topic related to immigration in the United States. For our first assignment, you’ll be grouped according to your interests. As a group, you will select a topic, do some preliminary research on that topic and generate an original and compelling research question *that will be best answerable via the visual mapping of arcGIS*. In at least 4 sentences, note how your topic will work with the arcGIS platform, how you plan to visualize and map your research and list 1 larger topic (equal housing, race and immigration, etc) that you hope to touch upon with your research. Finally, explain why you chose this topic and how it will allow you to ask questions that are grounded in the discipline of the social sciences.

Underneath this explanation, include an alphabetized list of five to seven sources that you will use for your research. Remember, these must be academic, peer reviewed sources or primary sources (for example, census data, corporate statements, interviews, etc). Please use MLA formatting for citations. **At least three of these sources must be peer reviewed.**

You’ll be graded on the proper formatting and appropriateness of the works listed. This feeder should be submitted to Sakai by **10:59am** on **September 29.**

***Feeder 2.1 should include:***

* Description of your topic and an original research question
* A justification of why this topic and question work well with the arcGIS system as well as a visualization plan (at least 4 sentences).
* 1 larger sociological topic that you hope to discuss with your more specific research topic
* 5-7 sources with 1-2 sentences describing why you think each fits with your topic and your methodology.

Writing goal for feeder 2.1: This will be the beginning of your research and will help you focus on succinct, clear writing that will work well in both visual and oral forms. You will also learn to write a survey that is unbiased and comprehensive.

Research goal for feeder 2.1: Choosing a topic that is situated appropriately for the arcGIS platform, and articulate how your topic works in the larger context of the field of sociology. How to work within broad guidelines to develop your own project as well as how to work collaboratively.

I want to keep this open to your own interests, but sometimes that can be overwhelming! If your group needs help finding an appropriate research topic, please come and talk to me in office hours or email me. You’ll be working on the topic for the entire unit, so we want to make sure that you choose something that you are interested in and also something that allows you to ask questions based in the social-sciences.

**FEEDER 2.2: Abstract.**

**DUE: 10/6**

An abstract is a summary of your research project. It should be single-spaced, one paragraph, and approximately 150-200 words. It is NOT an introduction to your project; rather, it should highlight your major points, explain why your work is important, describe how you researched your problem, and offer your conclusions. Your abstract will be due by **10:59 am on October 6.**

#### **How do I prepare an abstract?**

For the purposes of this project, the wording of an abstract should be understandable to a well-read, interdisciplinary audience. Specialized terms should be either defined or avoided.

A successful abstract addresses the following points:

* *Problem:* What is the central problem or question you investigated?
* *Purpose*: Why is your study important? How it is different from other similar investigations? Why we should care about your project?
* *Methods*: What are the important methods you used to perform your research?
* *Results*: What are the major results of the research project? (You do not have to detail all of the results, highlight only the major ones.)
* *Interpretation*: How do your results relate back to your central problem?
* *Implications*: Why are your results important? What can we learn from them.

Writing goal for feeder 2.2: Writing in a clear and concise manner that accurately lays out your question and project. Practice with the particular genre of abstract-writing (a skill that transfers across disciplines and industries).

Research goal for feeder 2.2: Learn to summarize your research and present its most important parts in a clear, concise manner without including every last detail. Learn to prioritize information that is necessary for an audience to know over information that would be nice for an audience to know.

**FINAL PROJECT: arcGIS Story Map and Presentation**

**DUE: 10/13**

When UNC does a public humanities event, students and faculty share their research in the form of an oral and visual presentation. You will submit your group’s story map (with at least 10 pin points) in a digital format. The class will present over two class periods. We will simulate a public humanities event (as best we can) and have a Q&A session. Story maps must be turned in by **10:59 am** on **October 13.**

Your presentation should include:

* Your topic and main question
* A short introduction
* A survey of research on this topic
* Your methodology
* An arcGIS map that helpfully illustrates your findings and research
* A written summary of your findings with **at least 10 pins**(try to avoid large chunks of text. Use subheadings or stick to bullet points)
* What your research indicates in regard to your central question
* Implications for your research
* Your sources **three of which must be peer-reviewed.**

Remember that you cannot include all of your information in your visual presentation! Stick to what is (remember to sort your information into the following categories: must know, good to know and nice to know. Include the “must,” add some “good,” and save “nice” details for talking with your audience.)

**Make sure to include your sources on the arcGIS story.**