

## Friday Project #5: Writing in an Academic Discipline due Oct 19

So far this semester, we have been exploring what it means to be a writer in general. Friday Project #5 presents you with an opportunity to explore the nature of writing in the discipline you have chosen to study here at SUNY Potsdam. If you have yet to choose a major, this project is perfect for considering a potential field of study.

1. What is the Library of Congress call numbers for your academic discipline? \_\_\_\_\_ (HINT: go to the library subject page for your discipline and look at the books tab.)

2. Locate three current periodicals in your discipline. At least one must be a professional journal and at least one must be a popular magazine. You can get help from a librarian. Give the title and complete call number for each:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

(HINT: go to the articles page and look for a box on the right for browsing.)

3. Compare and contrast the table of contents of each periodical. What sense do you get of the kinds of articles contained in the periodical?

4. Now select an article in PDF format from each periodical. Describe the organizational structure of each. (We did this in class with The New Yorker.) Are there pictures? Footnotes? List of references? What do these suggest about the audience level of each article?

5. Next, compare the actual writing in each article, noting paragraph structure and length, sentence structure, and vocabulary. How do these support your findings in 3 and 4?

7. Interview a SUNY Potsdam professor in your major to find out what kinds of writing a professional is expected to do in your academic discipline. In addition, ask your professor how he or she tailors writing

style to specific audiences. Also find out what citation format (MLA, APA, CBE, Chicago, etc.) is required in your major.

NOTE: You will be reporting your findings to the class on October 19, so the more detailed your notes, the better prepared you will be for your report.