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ENGL 365 – Technical Writing

Secs. 007, 008, 011, 012

16 January 2024 (updated 22 February 2024)

Faculty Annotated Research Report (FARR)

**This assignment is about summarizing scholarly discourse and connecting it to your educational and career goals. You must select a scholar in your field or major, read three (3) articles (or book chapters) by him/her, summarize the arguments of each piece, and then reflect on what you learned from reading them and connect that with your identity as a student and a future worker in your field. You must also select and embed at least three (3) images that relate to the scholarly works and or your application of them to your professional or personal life. Your document should have a visual design that facilities reader usability.**

Selecting a scholar

You should choose a scholar who has reached the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, or Visiting Assistant Professor. You should generally avoid Instructors and Adjuncts because universities hire such academics on the basis of their teaching expertise, as opposed to their research expertise.[[1]](#footnote-1) In limited cases you may select someone who is not employed by a university or college *if* such a person has an appropriate track record of publishing within your field or major.[[2]](#footnote-2)

You do not need to choose a UL Lafayette scholar or a scholar you have previously met in person. If you choose a UL Lafayette scholar with which you have a relationship through work or previous classwork, you should discuss how the scholar’s identity as a researcher fits (or does not fit) with his or her identity as a professor.

If you choose a scholar who either does not work at a US university or who was raised (or educated) outside of the US, consider also how their foreign identity or education influences the way they approach research and/or teaching. To what extent is the scholar’s national (and linguistic if they are not a native English speaker) and linguistic identity relevant to their research and or teaching?

What sort of texts count?

You should choose three (3) peer-reviewed articles or book chapters (such as those from an edited collection). The articles do not have to be about the same subject. The articles can have multiple authors just so long as your chosen scholar appears in all three (3) publications. While you may choose a scholar who has authored or co-authored a textbook, your sources should not be textbook chapters but essays or articles published in an edited anthology, individual book chapters from scholarly monographs, or individual journal articles. In other words, the audience for the articles you select should be professional, not introductory (as in the case of textbooks).

Summarizing the publications

Your text should summarize each publication by expressing the main idea(s) behind each. The summaries should be short and concise so you will need to omit (in your summaries) certain information if it is not helpful toward understanding the scholar’s main argument(s). Summaries should briefly introduce the subject matter that the scholar specializes in. Summaries should also include a parenthetical for sentences in which the content is solely the scholar’s research (and not the opinion of the writer).

Applying the research to your life

For each article, discuss how you can apply the knowledge gained from the article to your future studies and to your future career goals in whatever profession(s) you are considered post-graduation. Consider also how the writing style varies (or does not vary) from article to article. What sort of questions does the scholar seem to be interested in and how do these questions relate to your coursework and career plans?

Adding images

Your text should incorporate at least three (3) images that enhance the experience of having read the articles and applying them to your life. Images can include photos of the scholar you selected, photos of equipment or institutions mentioned in the articles, or in a more abstract sense, photos that represent the process of learning from the articles, or photos that relate to your professional interests post-graduation.

Each image should be embedded in your text and include a caption describing the image. Your text should also address why you chose such images.

Visual design and usability

Your document should be easy to read both in terms of clear writing and in terms of a visual design that emphasizes usability. Some methods for promoting usability include subject headings, different color text, and grid format (to name just a few). All documents should have either a header or footer on each page and should have a creative title (not “FARR”).

Another part of usability is anticipating reader expectations. While you may feel it necessary to introduce your chosen scholar it is more important to introduce the subject that your scholar specializes in. You may use your own definition or the definition of an outside source, but if you use the latter then you should cite it.

Citation requirement

There should be a works cited section in which you cite each source in a scholarly format, preferably in MLA style or else whatever style is popular in your major. You should cite all images in the works cited as well, even if the images are your own composition. Image citations should include the title of the photo, photographer (if applicable), date (if applicable), and URL. When selecting an image, try to find the oldest version of it as well as the biggest or highest quality version of it, as you will likely need to scale it down to fit on the page.

Length requirement

The FARR should be approximately 500-1000 words total (about 2-4 pages). The page length obviously does not reflect the size of the embedded images, so focus on the word count instead of the page count.

Due dates

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| SECTION | ROUGH DRAFT | FINAL DRAFT |
| 007 | 26 February 2024 | 4 March 2024 |
| 008 | 26 February 2024 | 4 March 2024 |
| 011 | 27 February 2024 | 5 March 2024 |
| 012 | 27 February 2024 | 5 March 2024 |

Students should bring print or digital copies of their work to class for peer review, as stated in the syllabus. The final draft should be submitted to Moodle as a .pdf, .doc or .docx file.

1. Note: this does not mean that Instructors and Adjuncts are not capable researchers but that it is more common for capable researchers to hold tenure or tenure track positions as attaining such positions often depends mostly upon a person’s track record of publications. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This is most likely to happen in applied science fields like medicine, engineering, and computer science. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)