

Website Analysis Paper

DUE: Thursday, 2/15

THURSDAY 2/1, 1:30-3:00 PM – WEBSITE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Please note special location for this class meeting/ Cass Hartnett (Women Studies Librarian) and Dave Maack (International Documents Librarian) will hold a special workshop on website research skills during our regular class hours in Suzzallo Library Instruction Lab, Room 102.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

This paper assignment asks you to analyze a website using feminist forms of cultural critique introduced in class.

To begin, spend some time surfing the web for organizations involved in gender issues in an international context. Locate one or two organizations devoted to a particular issue that you find interesting. The library skills workshop will provide you with some good methods for searching the web and assessing websites.

Explore the website(s) you have chosen and take notes, as a participant-observer, on how the design of the site positions you as an interactive audience member of the organization's project.

Write a 5-page analysis of the organization's website (or comparison of two sites). What kinds of visual and textual representations of women and men (or of feminism) does the website include? Do these representations contain any assumptions about what constitutes a gendered subject? Do they provide a sense of agency; if so, to whom? Are there any limitations to the ways in which culture and gender are constructed or made to cross borders? Do you think any potential problems exist in the organization's international mission in relation to the question of culturally and historically situated feminisms? If so, how might you address these dilemmas?

Please refer to at least two of the course readings in your essay.

WRITING POINTERS

1. Academic papers are flexible but formal writing exercises. Be creative and strive to develop your own rhetorical style, while also writing analytically, in a way that responds to the full demands of the assignment.

DO NOT write as if you were telling a story to your best friend or in a stream of consciousness style—unless you are quoting spoken material or journal entries that you then analyze for their cultural significance.

DO organize and edit your thoughts. Introduce the main argument of your paper in the first paragraph. Make sure that the details you bring up in the body of your paper contribute to the main argument. Provide transitions between paragraphs. Be precise in your statements. Check your grammatical constructions.

2. Whenever possible, use active rather than passive voice verbal constructions in your paper. Getting into this habit will force you to think more concretely about who, what, when, where, and why. Passive voice generally allows you to shrink away from such specifics, but the analytical cost is high. Some examples from Strunk and White's *Element of Style*:

There were a great number of dead leaves lying on the ground.

Dead leaves covered the ground.

At dawn the crowing of a rooster could be heard.

The cock's crow came with dawn.

The reason he left college was that his health became impaired.

Failing health compelled him to leave college.

It was not long before he was very sorry that he had said what he had.

He soon repented his words.

3. Quotations always require a footnote or citation at the end. Use block quote format for four lines or more of quoted text. Block quotes do not require quotation marks because they are set off from the main text through indentation and single-spacing.
4. For footnotes, citations, and references use the American Anthropological Association Style Guide (see above).
5. For titles, use quotation marks around article titles and underline or italicize movie and book titles.
6. Check your spelling and grammar with spell/grammar check. Check once more to catch mistakes that might have slipped through the computer program. Look especially for run-on sentences, subject-verb agreement, singular-plural subject agreement, verb tense consistency, proper colon and semicolon use, its vs. it's, proper use of prepositions, etc. Read your paper out loud. If it is hard for you to read out loud, it is probably hard to read period.

FORMATTING POINTERS

Your paper should be approximately 5 pages long. Do not go significantly (1-2 pages) over this guideline. Short papers often do not contain enough substance. Long papers usually need substantial revision and editing for greater clarity.

Please type your paper. Double space (except for block quotes), use reasonable margins, and select an easily readable 12-point font. Please print in black ink.