Tapping Into Student Passion: Creative Assignment Creation with Faculty/Library/Archives Collaboration

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Introduction

- Associate Professor – Melissa Smith
- Adjunct English Instructor – Sarah Rescoe
- University Archivist & Librarian – Melinda Isler
- Library Instructor – Kristy Motz

Sutcliffe, J. (2016). *Four musketeers.* Retrieved from https://www.flickr.com/photos/jmts/29225754695/sizes/q/

Impetus for the Assignment

- Historical and Personal Context for Academia

- Ferris History and Goals

- Persuasive Argument with a Personal Connection

- Primary Research

Hillman54. (2010). Traffic jam. Retrieved from https://www.flickr.com/photos/12265657 @N04/4925461145/sizes/m/

Assignment Introduction

ENGL 150
Dr. Melissa Smith
Paper #3 Assignment Sheet
Due November 21st (midnight)

Final Paper: 200 points
Peer review: 25 points

Research Based Persuasive Essay

Your third (and largest) paper of the semester is a 2,000-2,500 word research paper that argues for a specific course of action. After conducting some kind of primary research, and using at least four sources, you will need to explore a problem or issue that affects Ferris State University and persuade your readers that some kind of change needs to take place. This might be a change in university policy, better or more resources for students facing some kind of adversity, the development of a new major or program, or a specific course of action that the administration should take. You should consider the opposing argument as you write, but you are not required to write a counterpoint section within the paper.

You should begin by conducting some kind of primary research; this might include a survey, an interview, observations, or archival work. We will spend time in class talking about how to do this, and we will be spending at least one day (October 24th) looking through the university archives. You will also be using secondary sources to help support your argument, but the bulk of this paper should be your opinion. I want to know why you see this as a problem and what change you want to see take place. On the other hand, you should avoid using first and second person in this paper; I want you to practice and develop your scholarly voice.

Student Topics

- (Lack of) On-Campus Parking
- Dining Options (Variety, Dietary Needs, etc.)
- Heated Sidewalks
- Advising Problems and Pitfalls
- First Year Experience Course
- New Programs (TESOL, Physical Therapy)
- Residence Hall Renovations
- Pet Policies
- Smoking/Vaping Policies
- Tuition Rates/ Fees Allotments

Notable Results

- "Academic Advising Made for Success, Designed for Failure"
- "The Nontraditional Student and Orientation"
- "Could Ferris Benefit from A TESOL Program?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2WQERtzWJU&feature=youtu.be

Adapting the Assignment: English 250

- Find an alternative to the traditional "research paper" and pedagogical model
  - Improve engagement and interest
  - Accustom students to different voices and modes of communication
- Build research and other skills transferable to real life situations and writing complex papers
  - Primary resources
  - Digital, information literacy, public engagement skills
- Write for campus engagement/activism
  - Create connections on campus
  - Role of the university as a political space

Assignment Introduction: English 250

- Part I: **Persuasive proposal paper**
  - Explore a problem or issue that affects Ferris State University and propose a change/solution
  - Must use two primary sources; six sources total

- Part II: **Podcast (genre shift)**
  - Present the most essential insights and messages in a different, digital medium (i.e., podcast)

Student Topics: English 250

- Campus accessibility/improved disability access
- Social injustice on campus (sexism, racism, etc.)
- Library hours/study spaces
- Bike share program/campus sustainability
- Snow day policy/snow removal policies
- FSUS (first-year seminar course)/General Education policies
- New programs/minors (e.g., Theatre minor | TESOL | Math Communication)
- Pets on campus
- Tuition rates/fee removal
- Sports facilities improvements (indoor track/ice rink)
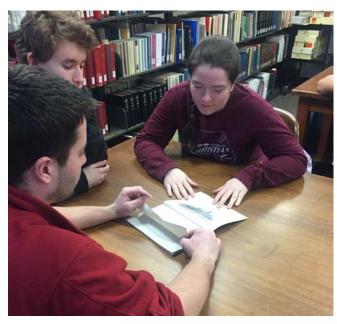
Student Topics: English 250 (continued)

- Parking
- Registration system
- Hours of cafeterias and eating facilities
- Poor school spirit
- Problems with residence halls
- Availability of internships/internship coordinators
- Unattractive/lack of campus green spaces/parks
- Public/campus transportation
- Lack of childcare options
- Internet issues

Notable Results: English 250

- "Smoking Should Be Banned on Ferris State University Campus"
  - Ferris received a grant from the American Cancer Society's Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative to adopt a 100 percent smoke and tobacco-free campus policy
  - Student email: "My [proposal] letter to the president that I wrote for your class contributed to this ban. Thank you for helping me formulate my strong beliefs on the ban of smoking into something that helped get this ball rolling!"

Notable Results: English 250

- "Making Campus Laboratories Safer"
- "A Proposal to Aid in Campus Parking Issues and Increase University Profits"

Evaluation of Assignments

- More time and effort into projects
- Improved ability to make inferences & less regurgitation of information
- Confidence as researchers
  - Using and citing relevant primary sources
  - Contributing to scholarly knowledge
- Empathy for student struggles of the past/current student issues

Assessment Results: Questionnaire

- 83% of students reported that visiting the University Archives helped them better understand concepts of primary documents and research discussed in class
- 77% agreed that visiting the Archives added interesting discussion and enhancement to the course meetings
- 71% of students reported the Archives provided them with new research sources they'd never considered before
- **89%** of students enjoyed vising the Archives and using archival documents as resources

Assessment Results: Testimonials

- Some students cited learning about FSU as a benefit to the assignment

- Other students "wished they would have learned about the Archives earlier"

- Likely to use primary and archival sources in the future

World of the Archives

- Physical location apart from the main library

- 1 full time archivist, 4 student workers

- Website presence

- Discovery systems

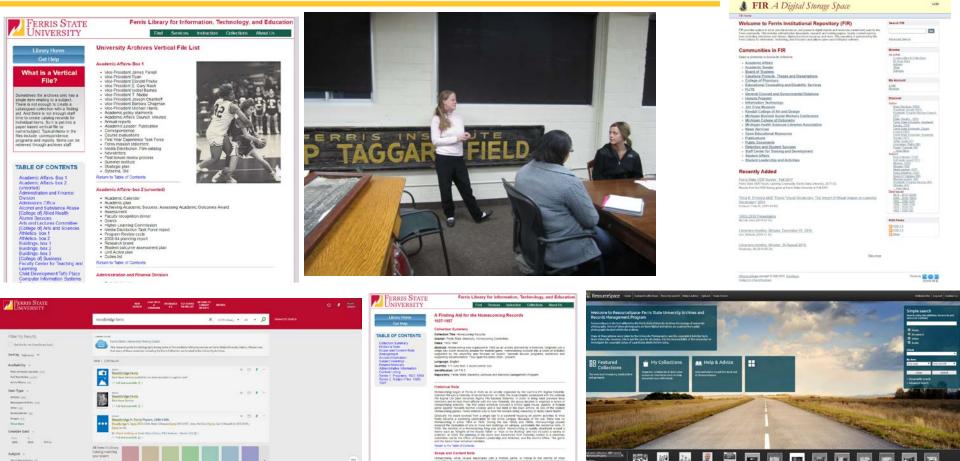- University Archives, Records Management and Special Collections

What does the Archives have?

- 7500 cubic feet
- Book collections
- AV material
- Photographs
- Electronic records
- Objects
- Publications, minutes, policies

How do I find it?

What does Records Management have to do this?

- Who is the office of record?
- Where is it kept?
- How long is it kept?
- Institutional responsibility

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<u>**Schedule 2- General Schedule – University-Wide Records**</u>

This Retention and Disposal Schedule covers general records common to most offices at the University. The records described are necessary:

1. for the continued effective operation of the University,
2. to constitute an adequate and proper recording of University activities, and
3. to protect the legal rights of the University and its students.

Specific originator or departmental records may have unique record retention schedules for a variety of reasons including the need to conform to explicit federal or state regulations. In that regard, departmental record retention schedules may be inconsistent with or fall outside of this general record schedule, and will take precedence over this general schedule. Employees are urged to consult the University's Archivist for assistance in this regard.

If departments are unable to retain records for the length of time set out in this general record schedule due to space constraints, consult the University's Archivist for assistance and storage at the Record Center.

Item No	Record Series, Title and Description	Department Retention	Records Center Retention	University Archives
GS.1	**Transitory Correspondence**. Transitory correspondence is written communication of short-term interest, which has no documentary value. This type of correspondence has limited administrative and evidential value, which is lost soon after the communication is received. Transitory correspondence do not set policy, establish guidelines or procedures, certify a transaction or become a receipt. Examples of transitory correspondence include routine requests for information which require no administrative action, policy decision, special compilation or research. This type of record also includes notifications of an upcoming meeting and similar records.	CR+1	Destroy-ID	
GS.2	**General Correspondence.** General correspondence may exist in a variety of formats including memos, letters, notes and electronic mail messages. If the correspondence pertains to a specific project or case, it should be filed within that project or case file.	CR+2	5 years	Yes
GS.3	**Managerial File.** These records are used to support activities of the departments. Document types may include periodic activity reports (narrative and statistical), special reports, topical correspondence, research materials, project planning notes, organizational information, Unit Action Plans, and other information necessary for the performance of the function to which the department has been assigned. Managerial files do not include files related to specific subjects, individual students, employees, accounting, or other related files.	ACT+5	5 years	Yes

By the Numbers

- Increase in reference transactions in from 199 in 2016 to 280 in 2017

- 8 reference transactions in 2016 from ENGL 150/250

- 72 reference transactions in 2017 from ENGL 150/ENGL 250 classes

- 25% of the reference transactions in 2017 related to these sets of classes

- Only 5 reference transactions with students

who were not part of this project

Kristy Motz

- Instructions to Smith & Rescoe Classes
  - Smith: 75 minutes   Rescoe: 50 minutes

- Primary Sources in the Library
- Ferris Fact Book
- Database Searching with Key Words
- Rescoe: Tutorial for Podcast Creation

Audio Podcast Creation

- Requirements

- Instruction

- Free software - Audacity

- Creative Commons music and sound effects websites
  - Sound Cloud
  - Freesound

- Results

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amous Podcasts

- This American Life
  Podcast put out by NPR. Has over 500 episodes, excellent use of music, interviews, and pacing.

- RadioLab
  Long running podcast on cool science and interesting philosophy. Again, long running.

- Serial Podcast
  Podcast that caught peoples' attention just a few years ago. Chronicles a journalist's interest in a criminal case. Does not require a subscription.

Audio Podcasting Software

- Audacity
  Audacity is free software made for manipulating audio digitally. It is robust enough for most things, but doesn't come prepackaged with any sound effects modulation.

- Audacity Tutorial
  Tutorial video on using Audacity

- GarageBand Tutorial
  Some of you may be using Mac computers, which have access to GarageBand. If you choose to use it, this is a great tutorial!

Resources for Audio

- Sound Cloud
  Great resource for Creative Commons music. Be careful though, as people upload their remixes illegally. You'll need to set up a free account to download.
  more...

- Free Sound
  Resource for free sound effects. This website was created prior to the creation of Creative Commons and made its own license with which to share sounds. It now supports both its own (Attribution) and Creative Commons licenses. Requires a free account to download content.
  Both Attribution and Creative Commons licensing will work for this software. Download either mp3 or wav files.

Kristy Motz

Kristy Motz

Schedule Appointment

Email Me

See Kristy's other Guides

Contact:
FLITE 140H
231-591-3625

Subjects:
Astronomy, Chemistry, Education, English, Geology, Physics, Reading, Reading 176, Television and Digital Media Production

Audio Podcasts

Giesbrecht, B. (2010). *Music.* Retrieved from
https://www.flickr.com/photos/naturegeak/5819
184201/sizes/

Primary Sources in Teaching

Collaborations Between Libraries and Faculty

Tuesday,
April 24, 2018
2:00 PM Eastern
1:00 PM Central
12:00 PM Mountain
11:00 AM Pacific

Higher education courses in the arts, humanities and social sciences are increasingly encouraging students to work with original documents. Teachers and instructors are setting their students primary material - including manuscripts, audio-visual records, and data - to work on. The availability of such material in online collections is helping to boost this initiative.

In this session we look at how collaboration between libraries, teaching faculty and students can create an environment in which teaching with digital primary sources can inspire a new generation of thinkers, while encouraging valuable analytical and critical thinking skills.

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Where Do We Go From Here?

- FOIA
- Oral Testimony
- Interviewing Skills
- Fake News
- What do you wish you could have found?

Questions?

Steele, A. (2010). *Questions.* Retrieved from https://www.flickr.com/photos/enderst07/4810954845

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