**Writing for a Discourse Community (Weeks 8-14)**

Now that you have a better understanding of how writing and language functions in your discourse community, you will write to gain access as a member of that community. For this project, you will conduct preliminary research in the forums you identified in Project 1 to discover topics of interest to the community, select a focus, and develop a research question that will allow you to significantly contribute to a particular community conversation.

Next, you will write a **research proposal (+/- 700 words)** that outlines your research question and proposed study, includes a project timeline, and articulates the ways that this project will enrich the current conversation, situating your research alongside the voices of others who are addressing this issue. You will then gather 7-10 additional sources that help you engage your research question and document this research in an **annotated bibliography (+/-1500 words)**. For each source in the annotated bibliography, you will provide a summary, an evaluation, and a statement of the source’s usefulness to your emerging project.

You will then produce a **research publication (+/- 2000 words)** for your chosen discourse community that communicates your findings as appropriate for a particular forum.

Your **research publication** for this project might take the following form:

* A Research Poster
* A Feature Article for an Online Newspaper
* An Article for a Trade Publication
* A Blog with Multiple Entries
* An Infographic
* A Handbook
* An Interactive Website
* A YouTube Video

You will have multiple opportunities over the course of the project to engage peer review and receive formative feedback from your instructor. You will curate the proposal, annotated bibliography, and research publication in your mid-semester portfolio and reflect on both your writing processes and products.

**Selected Class Reading**Arola, K. L., Sheppard, J., & Ball, C. E. (2014). *Writer/Designer: A Guide to Making Multimodal Projects.* Boston: Bedford.