Research Proposal

**WHY:**

For the rest of the semester, we are going to focus on the history of composition technologies and the way that composition technologies both affect and are affected by historical contingencies. The first step in this process will consist of individual presentations that will suggest which set of composition technologies we will focus on for the remainder of the semester. In these presentations, you will try to convince both myself and the class of the best directions for class research. For this presentation, you will be required to submit preliminary research, prepare a spoken presentation, and design handouts for the class to accompany your presentation. This assignment will test your ability to do research, to design appropriate visual materials, and to transfer between written and spoken presentation skills.

The main goals of this assignment are to:

* Gauge the importance of primary and secondary source material
* Synthesize a collection of preliminary research materials
* Use rhetorical principles to create complex visual materials
* Recognize the relationship between rhetorical appeals and a given audience
* Understand the relationship between written and spoken communication

**WHAT:**

**Choose Rhetorical Purpose:** One of the crucial aspects of this project is that you argue for researching the history of composition technologies that fall along one **rhetorical purpose**. What this means is that you will choose one reason for people to compose that dates back to at least 500 BCE. I’ve included a list of possible rhetorical purposes here, but you may come up with an original rhetorical purpose that is more suited to your interests. If you are thinking of a research angle that is not listed here, please check with me early on in this project.

Possible Research Angles:

Advertising

Fashion Design

Protest

Counting

Graffiti

Signage

Currency

Organizational Docs

Art

Educational Writing

Maps

Menus

Recipes

Tattoos

Construction Tools

Interior Design

Sculpture

Musical Composing

Politics

Wartime docs/ Battle-Plans

Journals/Diaries,

Letters/Correspondence,

Ancestry

History

Financial Records

**Annotated Bibliography:** Once you have selected your research angle, you will perform some preliminary research to help you become better acquainted with your topic before you try to sell this angle to the class. This bibliography will require at least 5 sources, each with a 200 word annotation.

**Presentation Materials:** With your presentation, you will be required to turn in two sets of written materials. The first will be a written account of what you are going to say in your presentation. While you should not read off of this document during the presentation, you must include as much of the exact wording of the presentation as possible. Second, you will need to turn in a handout that you will give to the class on the day of your presentation. This handout should address the basic reasons why the class should choose your research direction.

**Spoken Presentation:** At the end of this project, you will be required to give a 5-7 minute presentation to the class that covers the reasons why they should choose your research direction. This speech should be well rehearsed, and accompanied by a set of well-designed visual materials.

**WHEN:**

**Rhetorical Purpose Selected:** September 16th

**Mini-Annotated Bibliography:** September 27th

**Presentation Materials:** October 4th

**Presentation Days** October 10th, 11th