**Generating Ideas—Discourse Community Analysis**

*Note: Spend the most time on Parts 2, 3, and 4 so your draft will be easier to write!*

**Part 1**: Brainstorm communities you belong to. These could be:

* family communities
* friend communities
* work communities
* ethnic or regional communities
* online communities
* fan communities
* faith communities
* school communities

**Part 2**: Choose the community you’ll focus on & brainstorm the features of the discourse community *as fully as possible* because it will make the next steps easier:

1. List the goals or purpose of the community.
2. How do members communicate with each other?
3. How does communication strengthen community bonds? help the community to get things done? help the community to grow?
4. What kinds of genres are used to communicate?
5. What are examples of a specific lexis?
6. How do new members learn to communicate in this discourse community?
7. What kinds of things can go unsaid because they’re assumed?
8. What kinds of ways are people evaluated within the discourse community? what kinds of expectations exist about when and how things will happen? traditions? rituals?

**Part 3**: Think about conflict, tensions, or exclusions associated with the community and answer the following *as fully as possible* because again, it will make the next steps easier. How do the modes of communication

* help prevent conflict/tension/exclusions?
* help mediate conflict/tension/exclusions so that issues are resolved in satisfactory ways?
* create conflict/tension/exclusions?
* perpetuate conflict/tension/exclusions and make issues more difficult to resolve?

**Part 4**: Find 5-8 specific examples of writing, communication, and/or language to analyze. Try to cover 2-4 genres. Be ethical—don’t violate anyone’s confidence by working with sensitive information, and consider using pseudonyms.

List the examples.

**Part 5**: If you needed to include a secondary reading in your narrative, which of the ones that we’ve read would fit best in helping readers to better understand your discourse community?