**Project 3: Presenting a scholarly topic/discussion**.

**Rough Draft Due April 1st**

**(Adapted from an Assignment by Shaun Moore)**

**Final Draft Due with Portfolio**

(See Borner in *Grizz Writes*, pg 65).

Goal: compiling a more complete picture of how a discourse community discusses a specific topic. The project will also get students more familiar with the use of academic sources.

The assignment: Identify a current discussion occurring in your field (your major), or a current discussion surrounding fresh water ecology. Using at least five peer reviewed academic sources (e.g. academic journals and books), write a review of the literature that **explains and then synthesizes** the issues involved in this discussion. Then, based on the review you have written, examine what you conclude to be the **most compelling position** on the discussion and why.

This document is going to be mostly outside sources, along with your own analysis and synthesis of these sources. That means that you’ll be introducing the topic and explaining the current discussion as your sources have presented it: this will take up most of your project. Not until the end will you explain your position on the topic and discuss why that is your position.

Your goal here is about how your specific discourse community views a specific topic and how your own educated views fit into that discourse.

**Outline for Project 3** (see also Purdue’s “APA Style Template” in Moodle)

ν **Abstract** (overview of project … usually the last section you’ll write).

ν **Introduction**

In this section you’ll be introducing the topic and explaining the current discussion overall. Give readers background here so they have a better idea of the discussion/topic before they read your article overviews.

ν **Article Overviews:**

Here you will incorporate your annotated bibliography and restyle it to develop it with the positions and authors as the focus. This is the section that will report on how the authors have presented their positions. (Be sure to address the authors by last name rather than give the articles numbers “the first article”, etc.) Keep your own audience in mind here – guide them through the various positions on this topic as presented by your five articles. How have these authors presented themselves? What do they advocate?

ν **Discussion** **Analysis:**

o Now that you’ve given your audience everything that they need to know about these positions, here’s where you get to interpret, analyze, and synthesize them; which position is the most compelling, and what makes it so?

o What you are analyzing in this section is how the authors are presenting their positions. What do you consider the **most compelling position** in the discussion and why? How is the information presented? Consider tone, style, or other expectations and values of this discourse community in developing your analysis.

There are many, many directions that your analysis might take you, so it’s hard for me to tell you absolutely everything that should go in this section. Every Discussion section I read will probably be very different.

For your Analysis section**,** here are some basic steps to consider (and should be considered with most types of academic analysis):

1. Make a claim

2. Show examples/evidence supporting the claim

3. Explain how and why your evidence supports your claim. Here is where outside concepts (theories) work to give you credibility and support for your overall points. Explaining how/why is an essential step here.

4. Tie the analysis back to the overall claim/thesis of the project.

ν **Conclusions**:

o Here you will recap your position or synthesis of the compelling position. In developing your explanation discuss what conclusions you draw about this academic community based on these articles. Your main focus here is to try to come to some conclusions about these positions.

o Please recap the most important conclusions that you have reached regarding your analysis and what it means. What have you decided about the topic? What does to your analysis and synthesis have to say about the academic community? You may find that you would rather put this info at the end of your Analysis section. Longer reports with really long Results and/or Analysis sections usually require a separate Conclusions section.

Annotated Reference page:

Use your annotated bibliography as your reference page. APA format (be sure to place names in order of publication).

**This essay should be at least six pages long**