

**ENGLISH 1301: Essentials of College Rhetoric**  
**Texas Tech University**  
**Unit II: Reading the Conversations**

***Rationale for the Unit***

One of the first steps in many writing projects is to become aware of the conversations that are already taking place around a topic or issue you're interested in exploring. Whether you are interested in entering a public conversation about an issue of shared public concern or have to conduct research for an academic writing project, you will need to "listen" to the conversation that people are already engaged in about that topic or issue. Before participating in that conversation, then, you need to understand what others are saying. To do so, you need to be able to effectively read the conversation and understand both the arguments of others and the contexts in which they were produced.

The purpose of Unit II is to assist you in approaching reading, writing, and research and to give you practice in reading challenging conversations around an issue or problem, engaging in critical reading strategies, summarizing and synthesizing texts, and paraphrasing and quoting from those texts. We will read texts as a class around a theme, practice summarizing those texts, and explore together how these texts engage in a conversation around a problem or issue, responding both explicitly and implicitly to each other.

***Course Goals for this Unit***

*Rhetorical Knowledge*

- Develop facility in responding to a variety of situations and contexts (academic and nonacademic) calling for purposeful shifts in voice, tone, level of formality, design, medium, and/or structure

*Inquiry & Research*

- Incorporate work created by others in a variety of media (e.g., text, images, sound, video) ethically and effectively for rhetorical purposes
- Summarize, paraphrase, analyze, and synthesize information from a variety of sources in their writing

*Writing Processes & Craft*

- Develop a writing project through multiple drafts
- Develop flexible strategies for reading, drafting, reviewing, collaborating, revising, rewriting, rereading, and editing
- Evaluate the work of others, give useful feedback to others on their writing, and evaluate and incorporate feedback from others in their own writing
- Enact revision as substantive change