Coming to Terms

Writers make specific rhetorical **MOVES** to deliver their particular **PURPOSE** to their intended **AUDIENCE**. The following list is just some of the moves writers can make. Many of them are often made in combination with others, so you need to be aware of how many of them overlap. Paying close attention to (***coming to terms*** with) the moves of other writers not only gives you a deeper understanding of what they are trying to do, but also provides you with the ability to make these moves in *your own* writing.

When you talk about one of these in your paper, you should 1) name the move, 2) show where it is in the essay, and 3) explain what its effect on the readers would likely be:

Choice of **materials** (Where the writer goes for examples and evidence):

* Actual events, facts or statistics from journal articles, research studies, etc.
* Other people’s practices (in their classrooms, books, etc.)
* Quotes from others (authorities/experts)
* Personal “eyewitness” or “experience” details
* *Types* of texts cited and discussed

Revealing his/her own **identity**:

* Personal experiences to introduce issues or to relate to the readers
* “We” or “I” pronoun use (point of view)
* Acknowledging his/her own limits
* Revealing his/her own expertise, perspective, and/or bias

Using **comedy**:

* Humor, parody, sarcasm

Using **forwarding** moves (uses):

* Illustrating, authorizing, borrowing, extending

Using **countering** moves (limits):

* Arguing the other side, surfacing values, dissenting

Using **organizational** moves (“Methods”):

* Ordering the points or sections of the essay (to carry the reader logically and/or emotionally through the journey of the work)
* Comparison/contrast moves (as a whole or in sections of the work)
  + Subject by subject
  + Point by point
* Using section titles
* Introduction moves:
  + Opening anecdote/revealing identity
  + Epigraph
  + Case study/reference to another work
  + Shocking or critical fact/data
* Conclusion Moves:
  + Echoing the introduction, but now with insight
  + Reflection on implications of the points and evidence raised
  + Possible way(s) to implement the ideas raised
  + Speculating on what would occur if the audience implemented the ideas being raised (or did not)
  + Proposing a policy
  + Suggesting the limits of the work and asking for more research
  + Relating how the writer’s work fits into the work of the others in the PARLOR
  + Returning to an opening anecdote to show how it has turned out
  + Reflecting on (or echoing) the paper’s title