Chris:

I’m curious about why you chose Chinese over other languages. Perhaps you could include a section about how the language itself has influenced your teaching/outlook on life in general. I wonder if your experience would be inherently different if it were another language. Regardless, I think Chinese in the US is a fairly unique topic, which is good.

I’m also interested in the specific anecdotes of your students. I think that these stories would be relatable to a wide audience, and would probably elucidate the struggles of everyday Americans who are given a bad rap because of language. I can almost envision a collection of self-containing short stories that can be read individually, but can also be tied together with your overall experience.

Moreover, I think it’s important that you show how your work in volunteerism has specifically and measurably changed these refugees lives for the better. I don’t mean for you to showboat or anything, but measurable changes would immensely strengthen your argument for more to be done.

Gracie:

Oh man if there’s ever been a time to write about fake news, it’s now. As Robin said, you should emphasize which definition of fake news you will use in your paper. However, it would be beneficial to acknowledge and analyze the other definition in context as well. Maybe you could start off the paper giving each definition a new name for their use in the paper. I think it would also be interesting to explore why these different definitions came about. Perhaps seeing their origins would help you tackle the problem of fake news more efficiently.

Moreover, you should explore who uses each definition and who succumbs to fake news. This information is necessary to assess how well people will respond to rhetorical reading. I worry about how much a normal person will adopt such a technique. However, that’s where your paper comes in. You have a lot of potential to offer a modified and more effective method of Flowers and Haas’s original work.

Mary-Kate:

Your proposal presents the classic story of choosing whether to do something safe or something you love. I urge you to avoid falling into a false-binary; the paths are not mutually-exclusive. I think all of us will relate to a choice like this, which presents a good base because the audience will be rooting for you. However, there is a chance that this will come off as a Disney Channel Original Movie-esque story. Once your story comes to its conclusion, you will have to address what you gave up in your choice. After that, you can explore how you deal with those losses.

Anyhow, your personal anecdotes and details are what will bring this story to life. I can’t wait to see what comes of it.

Robin:

This is a topic I’ve never heard of before. I’m very interested in seeing how cancer can be a positive.

Your project seems to be very research-intensive. I suggest keeping your audience in mind when writing. If you intend to focus on regular people, you could incorporate a story in more informal terms. Your proposal characterizes cancer as the enemy. Using this as a base, you could create a long-form analogy of fighting cancer as a war. This would make the difficult abstractions and details of cancer more accessible to the regular population.

If you intend to focus on scientifically-literate people, you could focus more on the nitty-gritty details. This would let you bring in the latest research without watering down the content. This would make the paper more significant in the scientific community, which seems to be one of your goals. Either way, you should focus on one audience to get the most out of the paper.