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FYW: Writing Seminar

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Discourse Community: College Clubs/Organizations

**Problem/Objective:**  I want to stick with my original discourse community but also branch into similar communities. Since my discourse community is RIT, I was thinking of branching into other college and examining the effects of extracurricular activities on student behaviors and average GPAs. I was thinking of conducting research at RIT but using secondary sources from other colleges or about other colleges in my paper. I this could be an interesting topic because students are always interested and have been told that it is helpful for transcripts but the topic hasn’t really been talked about I great detail, at least not that I know of. Talking about this topic could make people think more about joining clubs and organizations on campus and can also shape future college campuses. Obviously, college campuses aren’t the same as they were thirty years ago, and there are so many more activities to participate in on campus and I think it would be a good idea to talk about that more.

**Research Question:** Does having clubs and organizations on campus benefit college students’ overall GPA and college records?

What kinds of clubs might not be a good choice for students to join/ might not be the best decision when choosing an extracurricular activity?

**Research Methods:**  I think my main data would be in the form of surveys which would ask students questions about themselves and their participation in extracurricular activities on campus. I might also conduct an interview asking certain club presidents about their club and how it impacts students’ lives and education. For secondary research, I was thinking of researching other colleges and their clubs and comparing them to RIT to see how clubs and organizations have evolved and that the differences are, if there are any. I would research any studies done on college campuses and how they’ve changed over the years to compare campuses and the impact on student life.

**Obstacles:** The main obstacle for me would be finding enough secondary information about the specific topics as well as interviewing a club president. I’m worried that I won’t be able to focus solely on extracurricular activities and instead might branch off into other aspects of college campuses. Additionally, it would be difficult to conduct the surveys and make expose them to a wide group of RIT students.

**Schedule:**

1. Come up with a list of questions by next week
2. Begin surveying by next week
3. Start researching and take notes throughout the next few weeks
4. Begin the paper by November 6th
5. Have surveys done before the first draft date