Suggestions for Organizing the Discipline Awareness Paper

Paragraph 1 – Introduce your discourse community and the role of your major or concentration within that community. What values and goals do you share? Who is included in this community (include different fields), and how do they generally exchange ideas? (This could be a place to bring in your professional association(s) and their conferences or events.) What topics are receiving the most attention right now and why? (You can include more about this in para. 2).

Paragraph 2—Introduce the major sources of information: discipline-specific databases, academic journals, trade publications, and institutions or agencies producing gray literature. Provide some description of these sources and how they advance the goals of your community.

Paragraph 3—Discuss common research methods in your discipline and types of evidence valued. Identify major theories or schools of thought and key figures associated with them.

Paragraph 4—Discuss writing conventions and genres. What are some common writing tasks encountered by students and professionals in the community? (These may be different.)

Paragraphs 5-7—Discuss the ways that the information in the first 4 paragraphs has guided you in your research so far. How has it prepared you to “enter the conversation”?