The best method to closely research/examine the previously mentioned/stated various factors that inform and influence first-year composition curriculum I will conduct a case study. The purpose of this case study is to research how theories and specific scholarship in digital rhetoric that informs and influences first-year composition curriculum.

Beginning in January of 2017 I will send out surveys to Writing Program Administrators, and first-year composition instructors (WPA) at twenty universities in the U.S. Based on survey responses I will select give to seven universities and request interviews with WPAs, and instructors. If available, during this stage I will ask for the following documents: first-year composition syllabus, assignment guidelines, and rubrics. If rubrics or assignment guidelines are not available, then I during interviews I will ask questions specific to the information I hoped to gain in reviewing these documents. These questions may be, but are not limited to: How are assignments explained? Did the instructors modify the guidelines or do instructors all follow the same curriculum? What are the expected outcomes? What parts of the assignments are graded? Which sections of the rubric are worth the most points? Which sections of the rubrics are worth the least amount of points?

The analysis of the data collected and interviews conducted will be grounded in three categories that I will create and use as a lens for analysis based on all relevant scholarship to the dissertation topic. This will include works in pedagogy, multimodal composition, electracy, procedural rhetoric, and digital rhetoric.

**Outline of Chapters**

The current outline of chapters will be:

Chapter 1 – I will introduce the topic of my research, and the specific problem/focus area of my research. This will include any and all scholarship that will help establish the problem.

Chapter 2 – This chapter will include the literature review in my prospectus as well as scholarship on pedagogy, multimodal composition, electracy, procedural rhetoric, and digital rhetoric. This will include different definitions and understandings of digitial rhetoric since the term was first discussed by Richard Lanham in 1992. This review of literature will be essential to the creation of the three categories that I will use as a lens for analyzing my data in later chapters. At the end of this chapter I will name, and describe the three categories.

Chapter 3 – Methodology

Chapter 4 – Analysis of data?

Chapter 5 – Recommendation/Conclusion?

**Projected Timeline**

**Fall 2016**

* November – Send prospectus to committee by week of Thanksgiving
* December – Defend during Finals Week
* December – During Winter break write a draft of survey questions, and work on IRB

S**pring 2016**

* January – Submit IRB
* February – Pending IRB approval I will contact WPAs at universities, and send out surveys to willing participants.
* February - Submit Chapter 1 by the end of the month
* March – Continue collecting data, schedule interviews based on survey responses, revise Chapter 1
* April – Complete review of literature, conduct interviews and continue collecting data
* May – Submit draft of Chapter 2 by end of the month

**Summer 2017**

* Revise chapter 2
* Complete collection of data and interviews
* Write draft of Chapter 3
* Submit draft of Chapter 3 by August 1.
* Begin analysis of data

**Fall 2017**

* September - Revise Chapter 3
* October – Submit Chapter 4
* November – Revise Chapter 4

**Spring 2018**

* January – Submit Chapter 5
* February – Revise Chapter 5, revise dissertation
* March – Send dissertation to committee
* April - Defend no later than April 14 (graduate school deadline)