**Assignment 2: Short Proposal Paper: Literature Review (20 %) 4 pages, single-spaced  
Due: Wed April 22nd**

Ideally, this assignment works to jumpstart the final 3rd assignment for the course, which is an academic paper that I am asking you to write (and possibly, submit) to one of the publications from which we have read. Consider *Computers and Composition, Kairos, Rhetoric, Professional Communication and Globalization*, or any other publication as your target audience. For this reason, I will ask that you start off on an academic paper that you could ideally also prepare as a presentation at next year’s CCCC (4Cs in Houston in 2016 March, deadline this May) or Computers and Writing (Deadline: September/November, held usually during the summer).

<http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Groups/CCCC/Convention/2016/CFP.pdf>

<http://english.arizona.edu/rcte/conferences-interest-2015>

For this paper, I ask that you write up a small proposal of two parts:

1. Introduce the issue using a Swales model for writing introductions (Create A Research Space, consisting of six rhetorical moves that introduce a “gap” in research – ideally, your research interests and questions).
2. Provide a literature review of the issue organized around the major themes of the issue. (I suggest you use Creswell’s Literature Map in creating this part).

**COMPONENTS OF PAPER:**

**Abstract**

**NOTE:** See the abstract as a “mini-paper” overview that lets a reader get all of the ideas in one small condensed paragraph. Write this last after you are done writing the main paper.

Create a short abstract that summarizes your purpose for writing the report. In a single paragraph between 150-250 words, it should include a brief summary of the conversation surrounding your topic and the research questions you address, the structure of your paper, and what you have found so far in researching the issues broadly.

Add keywords at the bottom of your abstract describing the particular area of your research:

Keywords: computers, composition, video games, rhetoric

***Introduction***

For the introduction, use the Swales Create A Research Space (CARS) model:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Swalesian-Introduction>

Briefly, the CARS model creates an opening via a research gap (in this case, the gap is the issue that you are researching and informing your reader about). CARS does this by

1) Introducing an issue broadly; 2) giving an overview of existing research, 3) introducing the gap (and 3-4RQs to answer it) 4) providing answers briefly 5) identifying the structure of the writing and 6) “closing” the gap by addressing the contribution it makes to the field. The CARS introduction works by Six rhetorical “moves”:

1. **Provide narrative overview of your field** - Establish field in which you are writing by going from general to specific by starting with a “narrative hook” for your reader. You will want to move from general to specific here for your readers.
2. **Briefly summarize research parameters** - give an overview of related research (you will expand this research in the body of your paper as part of the literature review).
3. **Define a research space by identifying a “gap”** – in this case, you are exploring a particular issue in the form of your inquiry for the paper. It is okay to identify the gap/issue first, and then relate a central research question or 2-3 research questions.
4. **Provide the answers** – outline your purpose (“To inform and explore the issue, I conducted research in areas y, z”) and explain the major findings/ results of your literature review (briefly – “In my review of the literature, x y z were found”).
5. **Identify the structure of your writing** – (this article is structured in the following way: the first section will answer [RQ1] by exploring xyz. The second section will present xyz in order to answer [RQ2]. Etc.
6. **Complete your introduction** – close the gap by telling your audience what your work contributes to the field (in this case, to inform/ explore about your specific issue)

***Literature Review of Paper:***

Do research on the issue that you want to explore in your paper. Your paper can be theoretical or it can be research-driven (in that you could propose a particular study design – however, I am not asking that you conduct said study for this course – there is simply not enough time. If there is enough time, perhaps a small pilot study would work, but again, this depends on time).

In the literature review, I want you to give an overview of the central theories, themes, and issues. This gives you an advantage in writing the final paper, in that you have an overview of the issues, and can move in a direction that works to advance knowledge in a particular area (because of the research gap you address). Do consider your “angle” in the research – what is important about this?

In doing the literature review, I suggest you use Creswell (PDF in Blackboard) and his technique for doing a literature review, which involves creating a literature map based on the major themes. The benefit of this literature map is that it lets you think more clearly about the major components, and lets you organize the literature review on themes, rather than theories. It is important to consider the themes as related to your inquiry, and not to get bogged down in the different theories. Using a literature map lets you map out the themes, and gives you a good overview of what has/has not been addressed.

**Choosing a Topic: Come talk to me!**

I suggest we discuss your ideas regarding a paper topic. I will also ask people in class and we can briefly discuss topics there. I am also happy to meet with you during my office hours or to arrange another time if that does not work for you.

**Grading Criteria:**

* Interesting research inquiry that is relevant
* Ability to use Swales model
* Ability to synthesize your own ideas with the ideas of others through literature review
* APA
* Scholarly style, applicable to academic writing contexts

