

**Composition #1 – Archival Summary**

**ENGL 1213**

**100 points**

**Purpose:** This assignment is designed to help you strengthen your strategic reading skills and your critical investigative skills.

**Outcomes:**

◊ Describe the process of archival research
◊ Identify and analyze the purpose, stance, exigency, and scope of a selected archive
◊ Identify and describe tropes or patterns occurring regularly within the selected archive
◊ Identify and apply appropriate revision at both deep and surface levels

**Assignment Form:** First, you will select a digital or library archive to investigate from the list I will supply to you. For this project, I am defining “archive” in this way: “…any digital resource that collects and makes accessible materials for the purposes of research, knowledge building, or memory making” (Enoch and Van Haitsma 4). In addition, the digital archives I prefer for this assignment are *multimodal*: they include a selection of alphabetic, visual (still and moving), and/or oral texts. They are “dynamic sites of rhetorical power” (Morris qtd. in Enoch and Van Haitsma 3) and therefore collections featuring more than one mode will be more effective than a single mode.

Second, you will summarize the archive in terms of its rhetorical contexts. Your composition will be in the form of a Prezi or PowerPoint, using the following inquiry points to guide your summary:

- What is selected and what is left out of the archive?
- What is the method of collection of materials? What other methods do similar archives use to collect materials?
- How are the materials arranged?
- Whose voices are present in the archive? (Women’s voices? Farmer’s voices? Survivor voices? Etc.)
- Why was the archive created at its particular moment in time? (A specific event, phenomenon, or need?) - this is called “the exigence” of the archive
- What is the stated purpose of this archive and how does the archive achieve this purpose?
- Is this archive singular or are there other similar archives? What differences are there between the selected archive and the others you find?
- Who created this archive, and what can we discover about the funders or sponsors for the archive?

Third, you will compose a 2-3-page alphabetic composition (MLA standards) reflection on the following points:

- Why did you choose this archive and how did you approach/read it;
- What did you learn about this person/event/place/etc.;
- What was your thinking and composing process when creating the Prezi/PowerPoint;
- What would you change if you did this assignment again?

And Fourth, upload your paper as well as the PowerPoint composition or link to your Prezi composition.

**Grading Criteria:**

◊ Summary contains information that answers 6 or more of the above 8 inquiry points.
◊ Composition contains clear and convincing evidence of thoughtful investigation within the archive.
◊ Composition exemplifies attention to revision and proof-reading (free of mechanical errors, etc.).
◊ Composition contains evidence of thoughtful design and intentional preparation.
◊ Reflective writing thoroughly addresses each of the four points.