Unit 1 - Archival Summary

Purpose: This assignment is designed to help you strengthen your strategic reading skills and your critical investigative skills as well as media literacy.

Outcomes:
- Describe the process of archival research
- Identify and analyze the purpose, stance, exigency, audience, and scope of an archive
- Identify and describe tropes or patterns occurring regularly with the archive
- Identify and apply appropriate revision at both deep and surface levels
- Reflect on and demonstrate awareness of creating a visual text for a rhetorical purpose

Assignment Form: You will select a digital or library archive to investigate from the provided list. For this project, archives are defined as “a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people” (Oxford Dictionary). It can also provide information about an event.

Please create a flyer, poster, or print advertisement which promotes the archive to the audience you identify. Summarize the archive in terms of its rhetorical context using the following questions to guide your summary:
- What is featured and what is left out of the archive?
- How are materials collected for the archive? How are the materials arranged and presented?
- What voices are present in the archive? Which voices are missing from the conversation?
- Why was the archive created at its particular moment of time? Why is it important that this archive exists now?
- What is the stated purpose of the archive and how does the archive attempt to achieve this purpose? Is there a mission statement or explicit mention of purpose?
- How does the archive address its audience? What is the archive’s main idea?
- What are the similarities and differences to other archives?
- Who created this archive, and what can we discover about the funders or sponsors of the archive?

In addition to the visual, your assignment will be accompanied by a 250-500 word reflection on your goals, aims, purposes, and methods in creating the flyer. This will be your Statement of Purpose.

What I’ll be looking for:
- Summary contains information that answers 6 or more of the above questions.
- Flyer contains clear and convincing evidence of thoughtful investigation and interaction with the archive
- Statement of purpose describes both the research process as well as the process of creating the visual
- Visual exemplifies attention to design principles and a commitment to revision

Due Dates: Rough Draft: February 7th, Conference Draft: February 9th Final Draft: Feb 14th