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English 1311

Discourse Community Response

Writing is such an essential tool when communicating with others on an everyday basis. People refer to writing to bring forth new ideas or to convey emotions much as a face to face conversation. Usually we are writing to persuade, to explain, and inform that there is a purpose to be reached. To achieve these objectives, we must use rhetorical knowledge because it focuses on the audience, the purpose, genres or mediums, conventions, topics, the specialized language, and finally on how to become a member of the discourse community. Each contribute as of writing in academic, civic, personal, and professional discourse communities.

The discourse community among my friends is very informal and more casual, as opposed to the polite and formal language at school and work. For example, to talk to friends or ask them for assistance can be with abbreviated phrases to words such as “brb” or “omg” because in today’s society everyone is accustomed to using rude and serious tone or voice. The specialized language throughout a personal group is very different to the academic group due to the audience in each discourse community. The audience would be friends, peers, and the social community who use the same tone of voice. Some of the topics include: parties, events, and basically everyday life in order to communicate and keep in touch with one another. The genre or mediums to send out these messages would be through social media such as Twitter or Facebook, text messages where abbreviated words and the use of numbers are used for fast pace, and phone calls are rare to be used to communicate. The main purpose is to establish a friendship with unity and trust to count on each when someone is in conflict. The guidelines are basically to respect each other’s criticism and bypass any bad or slang words.

Within the academic community the environment is similar to the personal discourse community because friends are included. However the audience changes to instructors too and therefore the language changes to professional and technical terminology. We are not able to use the improper grammar like in the personal discourse community because of the higher standards. In this discourse community, the academic field is the College of Engineering at UTEP where the sole purpose is to learn and become an engineer in the fields of mechanical and do so by maintaining a high GPA. Some of the high standards to become a member of this discourse community is acquiring a high school diploma, undergoing tasks and exams to get acceptance into the University, but for also getting the chance to enroll. Post that, the topics include engineering courses such as technical drafting, but also basics; like math, science, English writing, etc. These require the mediums of essays, communication from instructor to student, emails, reports, business plans, lecture notes, and design narratives to persuade the reader or audience of new ideas. To achieve we must follow certain guidelines to receive the passing grade, which certain instructors differentiate from one another, and from subject to subject.

In the professional discourse community the need to use the same proper language like in the academic community, but throw out that of the personal discourse community. In other words, the same tone of voice and language is used, within both, but this does not include friends. Therefore there is no informal language, but professional and polite grammar. As a former World Financial Group Agent we have to do with co-workers, families, and the entire world basically. The topics include presentations, recruiting more people, and selling insurance. The main goal of this company is to provide the nation with the best and most affordable life and health insurance through great customer service. In order to achieve this purpose, there are certain rules which we need to obey. As an agent we require training and presenting to the public which uses very exquisite language because we need to inform our customers with very detailed and informative information of the insurance we provide. In order to do, formal grammar in both Spanish and English is the most important. To become a member one needs to be eighteen or older and go through a very agonizing test which the State requires in order to get licensed. Finally, the means of communication are presentations of the product, making phone calls to friends and family, and using social media to get the company to grow.

To become a member of the civic discourse community of Skills USA one must have a passing GPA and have acquired individual skills in technical or medical fields. With these skills, there are competitions, in topics such as; Engineering, Architecture, Culinary Arts, and many other events. Each individual event has their own specific regulations and guidelines, for instance, uniforms. The audience includes other competitors, instructors, team members if any, and the judges who will identify the skill. The genres are letters one must send to enter the competitions and the presentations to the judges of each event. The goal to achieve is to learn a new skill which will then be demonstrated to judges throughout many competitions. The language and tone of voice is very formal and precise, the more educated the more points one can attain.

In order to come out on top in today’s world, one must understand the different skills required to write a comprehensive text. When understanding all the elements of the specialized language, genre, conventions, audience, the topics, how to become a member, and the absolute purpose of each individual discourse community, one can effectively write a response to the intended audience.