**August 21, 2012**

**Question:** Talk about a time that you didn’t fit in.

**Answer:** When I was younger, my family moved around a lot because my dad was in the Marines. At one point, we lived in Alaska. My mom was working at the local hospital and had met many Inuits. As a young child, it was hard for me to move from Florida to Alaska and to adjust. The culture and everything was completely different and I had to find my way in blending in. All I wanted as a kid was to blend in and at first it was a struggle. Later, I was able to make friends, and share my own experiences and I learned that being different is what actually gave me a topic of relation to the other kids.

**Question:** What discourse communities are you currently involved in? What genres do those communities use? What purposes do the genres serve?

**Answer:** I am involved in many groups here on campus. I work with the Alumni Association and am also an RA for housing. These are groups that use similar genres for communication. They all use emails, bulletins, and posters. The purpose is for getting information from point A to point B.

**August 23, 2012**

**Question:** What are the 6 characteristics of a discourse community as defined by Swales? Discuss in your own words.

**Answer:** The discourse community publicized their common goals that they will work towards. The community will also have a means of communication that is separate and solely for the group’s members. The group will use the means of communication primarily to provide feedback and information. A discourse community will also utilize more than one form of communication when attempting to further their goals and accomplish them. The community will also have a genre for communication that is it’s own and it will also have a lexis that its members use to communicate. The members must also be educated enough to discus the context of the group.

**August 27, 2012**

**Notes on Swales’s excerpt:**

The article that we read by Swales was about discourse communities. The article was a little confusing at first. I was not really sure what was going on. As the article moved on, Swales goes on to differentiate between the discourse community and a speech community. The article later goes on to define many terms that Swales uses frequently. One thing that I found interesting was how he talks about how the genres change not only depending on the time, but what field you is talking about. For example; the genre for scientists in the 15th century is different from the scientists now or even historians now. It allows for the intercommunication in that discourse community.

Swales also talks about others who are analyzing the shifting of discourse communities. At one point in the article, Porter (?) tries to answer the question of how discourse communities should be determined. It is nice that it is defined and looked at from many different angles. Another thing I like about this article is that is also present the opposition point of view.

In the last part of the article, Labov adds his insight and defines what a speech community is. He also justifies that there is still literacy in a speech community, but that it is just a different type of literacy.

2 groups: sociolinguistic & sociorhetorical. The needs and functions of the groups differ and they are analyzed here. It then goes on to discuss how a discourse community and also a speech community can affect people and change the way they process information.

The very last part just lists the 6 characteristics of a discourse community

**August 28, 2012**

**Question:** Choose one significant quote from Swales and be ready to explain it to the class. Why did you choose this quote?

**Answer:** “As is the case with every discourse community, the genres and conventions that biologists use continue to change, in part as a result of new technologies (the Internet, computerized data analysis tools) that help them analyze and disseminate information in ever more efficient ways” Page 467

I choose this quote because I feel it is relevant and interesting how right he is. The forms of genres are the same, yet the way that the information is being communicated is ever changing and yet we are still all in tune with it.

**September 4, 2012**

**Question:** What is “genre analysis?” What does it allow us to do? Find a quote to support your response.

**Answer:** Genre analysis is the gathering of information in order to better understand the genre. It is analyzing text in hopes of better understanding a discourse community. By analyzing a genre, we can better understand a specific focus of study. Genre analysis can also provide us with support in how this written work can relate to the real world. “’Genre study allows students and researchers to recognize how “lived textually” plays a role in the lived experience of a group”’ (542).

**September 11, 2012**

**Question:** What are new conceptions of genre versus traditional conceptions of genres?

**Answer:** Traditional forms of genre are seeing and thinking that genre and discourse are one in the same. The traditional way has a mold or “container” that the writing fits into. The article talks about how this goes against what we know but traditionally things are laid for us and it follows a pattern.

New concepts are situations that have occurred over and over again and so the situation is familiar and we are able to automatically process the genre as we see it. We use these familiar things so that we don’t have to analyze each genre and determine how to come up with it every time we read something new.

**September 18, 2012**

**Question:** After reading three articles from your field, what would you identify as your research topic? What are your articles discussing? What points do they bring up? What are you interested in finding out?

**Answer:** I would still identify the nursing shortage as my topic. The articles that I read all things to say about the shortage and how it can affect the nurses that are working now. The shortage is not getting any better according to the articles and the current nurses have to work extra hours that are forced upon them because there are no nurses to work. I am interested in finding out what could possibly be done to increase the interest in the field to young people to possibly get them involved in the nursing field in order to decrease the shortage.

**September 25, 2012**

**Question:** Look at all of the sources you have so far. If you had to group them into categories, what categories would you choose? Which sources would you put together?

**Answer:** Overtime/Nursing Shortage: Bae’s Article

Problems that Future Nurses will Face: Alabama Nurse and Dolan’s article

**October 11, 2012**

**Question:** How did you decide on the topic that your exploring through your inquiry paper? How did you know that this issue is important to your field? What does exploring this issue help you learn about your major?

**Answer:** I decided on the topic for my paper because nursing shortage is a hot topic issue that is going on in the healthcare world right now. There are not enough nurses that want to work in a clinical setting let along be nurses at all. I thought it would be interested to look into it and research any possible causes for the shortage that is going on and if anyone has any solutions.

I knew that this issue was important to my field because nurses are a crucial part of the healthcare world and are the true support staff in hospitals and are needed for day-to-day functioning.

When I am exploring this topic, it helps me to think about the job market for my career once I graduate and helps me have a better understanding of where I could get the best job based on the shortage of healthcare providers.

**October 30, 2012**

If I were to continue exploring the nursing shortage field, I would begin by looking for more research on how differing nursing education plans can affect the actual nurses once in the field. As I learned by reading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, this issue is important because the nursing shortage does not seem to be getting any better, and yet nursing schools are becoming more and more competitive to get into. I understand the need to produce quality caregivers, but the restrictions that are placed on healthcare workers seem a little extreme. It also is important because the type of education you get and the classes you take in your nursing program may sway you into the specialty.

**November 15, 2012**

**6 Word Memoir Of Class**

This class is way too early.

Not as different as we think.