

**General Instructions for Group Project**  
Professor Newmark  
English 111; Fall 2008  
Mechanical Engineering Learning Community

1. You are committed to your group-mates. Do not let them down. All members of the group will share the same grade at the end of the project.
2. Keep copies – hard copies and digital copies – of all of the work you do during the course of this project.
3. Keep your obligations to group meetings, in class, with me, and outside of class.
4. Your ultimate goal for this project is to turn in a “scrapbook” that reflects your group’s understanding of “disciplinary genres.”
  - Exercise One: The project begins with a writing exercise in which each group member describes an area in which he/she is an expert.
  - Exercise Two: Next, group members will interview each other about these areas of expertise. The group members will each write up a list of questions and will transcribe their partner’s answers.
  - Exercise Three: The next task is for the group as a whole to find, on campus, an “expert” in Mechanical Engineering. The obvious idea here is that the group would choose a Mechanical Engineering faculty member for this part of the project. A graduate student in Mechanical Engineering could also potentially serve as an “expert” for this part of the project. Once your group has chosen their “expert” (and, for the record, Hollis is off limits for this part of the project), the group members will schedule an interview with this expert, compose a series of question (based on a modified set of questions related to the ones from the writing exercise, Exercise One—I will suggest these), conduct the interview, and transcribe the expert’s answers.
  - Exercise Four: This is a “real” scrap-booking project. The group members will each collect articles that describe “excellence” in both the discipline of the student’s personal interest (from Exercise One) and the area of the “expert’s” interest (from Exercise Three). Bring in copies of these articles, which will ultimately be collected in your scrapbook. Each student will need a total of four articles (two from the student’s area of interest and two from the expert’s). Based on each student’s reading of these articles, each member will verbally summarize their articles for their group mates in

class. I will evaluate the group's performance on this activity by observing the summaries during class time.

- Exercise Five: Written Summaries. The group members will follow the book's summary guidelines (also practiced in the first sequence) to write five article summaries. These should be written in class, collaboratively. These will be collected in the scrapbook.
- Exercise Six: Group-Written Argument. Your group will draft, compose, revise, edit, and complete a three- to four-page argument essay that answers the following questions: What must one know to write in – or about – a certain discipline? What are features of “good” writing that exist *across* disciplines? This essay will be the last section of your scrapbook. Please refer to your group's collected articles, interviews, and personal narratives in this essay.

5. Turn in your group's scrapbook *on time*. It is your responsibility to make sure that all the contents are included in the final product.