Unit 1 Overview Questions

Are there pieces of the rhetorical chart that are absolutely integral to the writing process toward the First Unit Project and the Feeders?

Yes, the rhetorical chart helps you decide your tone, sources, word choice, and structure. In feeder 1, you will need to pick a source that conforms to the rhetorical chart, so you will need to pick an academic article as opposed to a news article. When you write the annotations, you will take a more academic tone to your writing. It is important to keep the rhetoric chart top of mind when you are writing the feeders and unit project.

When generating a topic for our papers, how do we come up with something original? Isn't there always the risk that there's some paper out there that says exactly what we intend to or makes acclaim that renders our point useless?

Later on in your academic career, it is important to do a lot of research in order to make sure you are making an original claim. In this case, I am not requiring you to go out there and completely understand the academic conversation around CLS. I am requiring you to look at two sources and understand the conversation from just those sources, not any others (unless you want to bring more in). Also, when you pick a newer research area like CLS, there is typically less written about it and it is easier to come up with an original argument.

Why the focus on the argumentative, not the data or the science? I would think that being familiar with the subject, even if just vaguely would be of help.

Since this is a writing class and not an official DH class, I am not focusing so much on content as in writing styles, rhetoric, and writing strategies. Some students do not have any familiarity with these concepts, and we don't have the time to go over this, so I am not requiring it. You can still write about how academics argue their points and whether or not those are well laid out arguments (hence the "rhetorical" focus of the class). If you can understand the data and science behind these, then please engage with them in your paper. However, you run the risk of misunderstanding those aspects, which might make your paper unclear. It is up to you on how you want to approach CLS, you can do it from an argumentative approach or a methodological/data approach.

Will learning about this debate aid my understanding of language as a whole, particularly as a journalism major? Does the CLS debate have any implications or influence outside of literary academia?
On the first day of class, I asked you to think about the differences in quantitative and qualitative information. The CLS debate is essentially about how to navigate these two types of

data or modes of interpretation. As a journalism major, you need to finely balance individual voices and a larger narrative—which sometimes will include qualitative information. Hopefully this class will provide you with some critical thinking skills to approach qualitative and quantitative information more confidently and ethically.

How much of the word count is recommended to be spent defending my claim against a strong counterclaim?
I would use very little time on the counterclaim. You want to bring it up, so your reader knows you have thought about an argument against yours. But ultimately you want to persuade the reader of your particular point and it is counterproductive to spend a lot of time on the counterclaim.

How does scalar internalize other sources? What is the difference between a journal article and this type? How do citation work for this genre?

Scalar makes a page for ever media object, so it forces you to create metadata for every picture, video, or visualization that you integrate in your article. This helps you understand and practice good citational methods. Journal articles usually are much longer and do not integrate visual aspects to their form.

Where do we submit feeders/projects? Are citations counted in the word count?

You will submit feeder projects to Sakai Dropbox. We will review how to do this in-class. Like real academic writing, citations are not counted in total word count.

Will Scalar be something that I will be using often through the rest of my college career?

Maybe, it is mainly used in Digital Humanities circles (which is why we are using in a writing course on DH). However, many of its functions are borrowed from other Content Management Systems, like Drupal or WordPress. You will be able to transfer the skills you learned in Scalar to any other CMSs, which you will use throughout your college career.

How exactly will the feeders come together to form the final paper?

You will develop citations in Feeder 1, which will become your works cited section in your final papers. The annotations you write in Feeder 1 will form the basis of your summary paragraphs in your final paper. Feeder 2 will provide the final paper with paragraphs linking the two sources and will form the basis for your thesis and argument.

What should I do, outside of class, to develop and deepen my understanding of CLS, as my knowledge of that topic is non-existent?

The Journal of Cultural Analytics produces some great articles about CLS. However, the best way to understand CLS, would be to go through Da's citations and read through the articles she is engaging with.

Will you approve our original claim before we start writing? What is an annotated bibliography?

Yes, I will always take a look at your writing or talk about your ideas before the due date of assignments. Please come to my office hours or make an appointment with me via email. An annotated bibliography is essentially a list of citations and summary paragraphs of the sources you are citing. We will review this more in class, for a better description, look at the example on the Feeder 2 page.

Any requirement for a Feeder?

Make sure that your summary paragraph is comprehensive, it should be at least 250 words. You will be writing two of them, so your word count should be around 500 words.

Once we turn in the assignments through Scalar and publish them, will they be accessible to the public or still private?

We will talk more in class. I can make it public or private, depending on how everyone in the class is feeling. If you really do not want it out in the public, we can keep it private.

Why is CLS important?

The main contention point in CLS is, should we be letting algorithms and computers in our reading practices or not. Think about amazon, do you want a computer telling you what book to read or would you rather go to the staff's picks at a local bookstore? How computation and data is negotiated with human experience will be one of the key questions that we will need to answer in the next decade. CLS is already engaging in this debate. Also, LS marks a turning point for humanities and for the university at large. The question is whether or not we change longstanding disciplines like English to fit new methods like reading with computers and whether or not we need to restructure the university to accommodate those changes.

Will the "feeders" be incorporated into the final unit project or is it just practice in preparation for the project?

You will reuse the citations and your summaries in Feeder 1 in the Unit project. You will also use Feeder 2 in paragraphs related to linking the two sources and your own argument. It is my hope you will reuse the paragraphs you generate through the feeders in the final project.

What are the formatting requirements for the annotated bibliography?

Usually all your assignments should be in 12-point font, Times New Roman Font, and double spaces. Additionally, your name should be somewhere on the assignment, either in the file name or on the bibliography itself. The format of the bibliography should be as follows: order of sources should be alphabetical by author's last name, source in MLA citational format, 1-2 paragraphs of summary about the source (argument, evidence, points), then you repeat for the next source.

Are we limited to using two sources?

No, you can use as many as you like. I am only requiring two.