

Project 1: Process Narrative

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

In this unit, we will investigate the writing and inquiry process, as well as how to enter conversations and ask good questions as writers and inquirers. In order to determine how others ask questions, it helps to know ourselves, our positionalities, and how we each approach the inquiry process...and the food-making process! How we make food and what we eat has ties to our backgrounds, cultures, values, and goals for our day, ourselves, and our futures. It also reflects how we view the world around us: where our food comes from and who provides it to us. So, to start that inquiry process, you are going to look into one meal and explore how it was made and what it means to you. Hopefully you'll find out that even everyday simple meals can tell you a lot about yourself and how you think about food.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

You will write a **process narrative** about your current relationship to cooking and food, using a **meal** you have recently consumed as the launching point. Through this brief inquiry, you will explore the **social, cultural, and economic impacts** on how you made or procured this meal: your decisions, your process, and yourself as a consumer and questioner.

So, you'll first want to **select a specific meal** you plan to eat. It doesn't have to be fancy; it doesn't even have to be one you cooked. But it does need to be one that you take special note of and ask questions about as you prepare for your meal and consume it. You'll also want to take photos as you eat, since you will need to provide images in your essay. As you eat and/or prepare the food, be thinking about the journalistic questions: **What? Who? Where? Why? When? How?**

Your essay should be built of four elements (not necessarily in this order):

1. **A description of the meal process itself:** what did you eat and when? What was the context for this meal—what happened before/after? How did you decide to eat this? Why? Who made it? What was the process of procuring or eating the food? Where did the food come from? Who was with you? What tools were used to create or serve the meal? Where did you eat it? What was the experience like? Did you enjoy the food, or not? **Take us through the experience, telling us the story of this meal through rich details.**
2. **An exploration of your positionality as an eater and/or cook:** why did you select this food? What about this food appealed to you? Why? What memories, associations, and/or experiences do you have with this food? Why? Is this food or meal experience important to you? Why/why not? How does it relate to your values? What does it do for you, and how does that relate to you as a person? How does it relate to you as a person who lives in a culture and society?
3. **Questions that emerge as you inquire into this meal:** what do you wonder about, both about your food and yourself as a consumer and procurer of food? What do you question? What issues might be underlying the meal you ate, whether explicitly or implicitly? How might this meal connect to larger issues about food and culture/society/economics/politics/identity? Consider both **shallow** questions and **deep** questions. You do not have to have answers to these questions! You may want to come back to these questions throughout other projects. **Your essay should end with a**

resolution that tells us why this whole exploration matters, not just to you but to your readers.

4. **Three images of your own creation that relate to your meal:** these can be photos of the elements, of the people who made it or ate it with you, of the process of creating the meal, or of the finished product. They need to be **rhetorically purposeful**—they need to support the overall point of your essay, and they need to be placed throughout the narrative in ways that make sense to your readers.

All of these elements should work together to give us a narrative of your process, not just of creating, procuring, or eating your specific meal, but also of you as an eater and/or cook in spring 2021 in Fort Worth, Texas.

See more details on the Project 1 [rubric](#).

WHERE AND HOW DO WE POST IT? WHEN IS IT DUE?

Essays should be between **750-1,100 words double-spaced and in 12-point font**. Please include a header with your name and the date, as well as a catchy title. Your essay should include at least three images placed rhetorically throughout your essay. This project is worth 10% of your grade.

Workshop draft and author's note is due by Friday, 2/5 at 11:59pm to your group's Project 1 Workshop [discussion forum](#) **and** the Project 1 WorkshopDraft [Assignment box](#).

Final draft and final author's note is due by Friday, 2/12 at 11:59pm to the Project 1: Process Narrative (Final Draft) [Assignment box](#).