

8-2023

Archival Literacy Project

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Recommended Citation

Leaman, Kristin Browning and Harmeyer, Adriana, "Archival Literacy Project" (2023). *Archival Literacy Toolkit*. Paper 1.
<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/alt/1>

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Archival Literacy Project

English 108

Rough Draft Due:

Peer Review of Rough Draft Due:

Final Draft Due:

About the Project:

You will learn how to search, access, and analyze materials in the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections. These skills will then be applied to find and research a topic of interest for your project. We will visit the archives as a class and participate in active-learning document analysis activities. Through this assignment, you will learn the value of archival research, how archives collect and organize materials, and how it applies to your own field of study.

For this assignment, you will explore collections in the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections and choose a topic (people, places, events, objects) to profile. You will learn how to search, access, and analyze archival materials through a series of classes and workshops. You will also have an opportunity to explore materials in the Purdue ASC during a guided workshop with archivist, Adriana Harmeyer. Secondary sources may be utilized to further support your primary source research. Some examples of topics:

- Faculty
- Purdue presidents
- Academic departments
- Buildings
- Clubs
- Sports/Athletes
- Alumni
- Purdue choirs
- Purdue bands
- Train wreck

- Tank scrap

* Browsing information on the ASC website is a good way for you to find a topic.

Questions you should consider:

How did you find your topic?

Why did you decide to choose your topic?

Did you decide to change your topic after your first class visit to the archives? If yes, what made you want to change topics?

Did you already know something about your topic? If yes, what did you know?

Did you consult with Adriana or Kristin and ask them questions that provided helpful guidance on finding more information on your topic? If yes, discuss this in your paper.

Did you do any background/additional research on your topic before or after seeing your archival materials?

What were some of your first thoughts/impressions when you looked through the archival materials on your topic? Is it what you expected? Were you surprised by anything? Be specific.

What are some of the most interesting archival materials you looked at on your topic? Why did you find them so interesting? Remember you can share images in your paper!

Did you look at materials from one collection, or did you look at materials from more than one collection?

Were any of the archival materials confusing or difficult to read? If yes, why? How did you overcome those challenges? Did you overcome those challenges?

What did you learn from working with these archival materials?

Organizing Your Paper (*Norton Field Guide to Writing*, p. 256)

- 1.) Introduce your topic, provide necessary background
- 2.) Present details on your topic (use the questions above to help guide you)
 - a.) sensory details
 - b.) examples
 - c.) images
 - d.) anecdotes
- 3.) Conclusion
 - a.) state your overall impression
 - b.) what have you learned

Citing Archival Sources

[Purdue Archives – Citing Archival Sources](#)

[Purdue OWL Citing Archival Sources](#)

*Remember your helpful “Citing Archival Sources Checklist” document.

Once you have gathered all of the information on your topic, I want you to compile your findings into a coherent profile paper; you should not simply list your findings. The point is *not* to write a biography or a history of your topic. As stated in your *Norton Field Guide to Writing*, “A profile presents a subject in an entertaining way that conveys its significance, showing us something or someone that we may not have known existed or that we see every day but don’t know much about” (p. 245).

Please pay close attention to the due dates and participation/attendance grades for this assignment! t.

Checklist for your archival literacy project final draft:

- 1,300-1,500 words, 12-point font, double spaced, 1” margins
- Explanation of how you found your topic and why you chose it
- Analysis of findings
- Discussion of your experiences during the archival research process
- Cite sources in MLA style

- Include images of archival materials discussed
- All images are cited
- Include a formal introduction and conclusion
- Include a works cited page

Point Breakdown:

Rough Draft.....30 points

Peer Review.....20 points

Final Draft.....50 points

Total: 100 points

Rubric for Final Draft

<i>Criteria</i>	Exceed Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaches Expectations	Improvement Needed	Missing or Late	Criterion Score
<i>Clear thesis statement and purpose</i>						/15
<i>Analysis of archival materials</i>						/15
<i>Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, and Expression Quality</i>						/10
<i>Overall Organization and Uniformity</i>						/5
<i>Citations, Formatting, Page Count</i>						/5
Total Score						/50

*Questions? Email me at (email) I stop by my office in Room Number (Day/Time of office hours and by appointment).

