Ethnography, Part 2: My Major and Its Writing Genres
Length: 3-5 pp. typed
Documentation: Style of the Field

The purpose of this assignment is to expose you to the field and the types or genres of writing in that field. You will investigate how professionals in the field express themselves, why the writing has evolved as it has, and what three types of writing may be found in that professional writing today.

Your essay will be made up of two main parts, the first an actual description of the field, found through research and interviews. What features are of particular importance, such as training required and potential areas of specialty you might be interested in pursuing. What appeals to you, in particular, about this field?

The second part should consist of detailed descriptions of three forms of writing prevalent in the field today, with samples quoted for illustration. You should identify which type is used for which purposes or audiences.

Research Strategy
Key Reference Works
1. Encyclopedia article on the field—to gain general information on who the leaders in the field have been and currently are
2. Major works in the library or available online by these people
3. Handbooks on writing in the field today
4. Sample pieces of writing by current experts

Your investigation should be written up as an expository report, with a bibliography of all your sources at the end, using your field’s format. Use parenthetical citations for direct quotations, paraphrases, and summaries of expert opinion only. Factual information does not need to be cited.

Deadlines for Part 1
March 24 Draft 1: Brainstorming and early research findings (uploaded online for commentary from your small group)
March 28 Draft 2: Putting the elements together and getting feedback from your small group in class
April 2 Draft 3: Hard copy of the likely completed draft for me

Evaluation Criteria
1. Evidence of earnest research into the background of the field, in particular its methods of expressing findings and positions
2. Direct reference to sources with accurate and appropriate use of direct quotation, summary, and paraphrase
3. Clear guidelines for writing in three different genres in the field
4. An easily grasped development for an non-expert audience
5. Accuracy in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and other mechanics, including the use of your field’s documentation