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# Exploring inquiry-driven learning and discourse communities in ENG 229

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# Challenges with academic writing

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Some students think of themselves as bad writers, or are simply not interested

Students are often faced with “unreal rhetorical situations” and, therefore, struggle to find purpose in academic writing (Heilker).

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# Inquiry-Driven Learners

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“the capability to explore and cultivate promising ideas--ideas that will enable [them] to successfully navigate constant change”

ultimately determine how a personal interest is relevant within other communities

*Cultivating Inquiry-Driven Learners: A College Education for the 21st Century* (Conrad and Dunek)

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# Implications of Inquiry-Driven Learning

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"We must look closely at who our students are, what their futures will demand of them, and what sort of meaning-making will lead to equitable and productive social relations within that collective future." Eli Goldblatt,  
*Because We Live Here*

"Writers write because they have to; they must explore their experiences and locate themselves in relation to a complex society." Erika Lindemann

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# Inquiry-Driven Learning Opportunities

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- Establish connections between the topic at hand and personal/academic/career interests
  - Establish purpose behind writing and research
  - Determine, through research and writing, how roles in the classroom are significant to outside, professional communities
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# Throughout the semester, you'll work on the following assignments...

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## **Mini-assignments:**

Occasional, informal freewriting

E-mail to me regarding ideas and goals for class

E-mail to a member of a professional discourse community

Exploring Your Online Identity

## **Major assignments:**

Profile Project

Rhetorical Analysis

Portfolio with the included materials (listed below):

Workplan Memo for Portfolio

Portfolio Materials (2-3 projects determined by student)

Final Reflection for Portfolio

Personal Statement with multimodal component (part of the portfolio)

Team Presentations

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# ENG 229 Goals

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Defining community and framing assignment within that concept

Explore various professional communities, but establish a classroom community

Garner a sense of where you are coming from, and where you intend to go--as writers, as academics, as professionals

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# In ENG 229, I hope you will...

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Explore

Take risks

Discover

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# Works Consulted

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