

## Reflective Journal #4

After completing Projects 1 and 2, I have begun to realize significant strengths and weaknesses when it comes to researching. I have the tendency to take the first relevant source that is somewhat related to my topic and use it in my paper. Instead of reading through the majority of the text or finding other genres, I lean towards simple website articles that are easily accessible and that I know will provide the point of view that I am looking to write about. However, I have found many obstacles along the way by doing this. I have had to change my topic multiple times because I did not do the in-depth research at the beginning that I needed to do in order to have a greater perspective on my topic. I was not open to abstract genres and resources that provided opposing viewpoints because I thought that it would be difficult to tie all the information together. By not taking the time to truly research multiple angles of my discourse community, I struggled to not repeat myself and to come up with new information in Project 1. This challenge led to writer's block because I was second guessing everything that I was writing since I was not confident in my prior research. I took this challenge and I decided to change my research habits. For Project 2, I researched several artifacts before settling on two resources and I was willing to change my non-text-based artifact from a picture to an hour-long lecture video. Even though the lecture video was more time consuming and more complex than the original image I chose, I was able to gather different perspectives and statistics from two credible professors in which strengthened my argument and my confidence in my writing. It was difficult for me to branch out to higher-level research, but it allowed me to break through my writer's block and expand my knowledge about my discourse community.