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“Blogging the Early American Novel”

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WEEK/ASSIGNMENTS	SKILLS USED	REFLECTION/BLOG
Step 1. Dig In. The Literary Archeology of Early American Novels		
Week 1-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and obtain a copy of novel • Use Evans or Shaw-Shoemaker to complete “Artifact Inventory” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • navigating library databases • knowledge of <i>Early American Imprints</i> (print version and database) • MLA citation style • PDF creation 	What does this process tell you about the relationships among American literary history, print culture, the canon, and readership?
Step 2. Get your hands dirty. Living with what you find.		
Week 3-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial draft bibliography • Create blog and invite class • Begin reading novel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initial bibliographical searches in databases • compiling bibliography using MLA citation style • designing simple online site to represent an “academic” self • Becoming a member of an intellectual community 	How and why did you make decisions about your blog? What ambitions do you have for it? How do these decisions connect with issues of reading, writing, and literacy which you learned about in Davidson’s book
Step 3. Site Excavation. Reading and Researching.		
Week 5-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhetorical analysis of front matter and first chapter • Continue reading novel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze relationship between print matter and audience • understand multiple functions of novels (teach, delight, argue, political comment, etc.) 	How has your reading and/or researched changed and/or deepened your view of the text? What aspects of the text are most interesting?
Step 4. Dig Deeper. Develop a preliminary bibliography.		
Week 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Bibliography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective use of keywords and Library of Congress subject headings • Effective use of multiple databases and resources • MLA citation style (lather rinse repeat) • Sharing resources with others in the community 	Reflection: How did this step change or deepen your sense of where you want to take this project? What strategies worked and/or failed? For what aspects of this project will you need the most help, and about what are you most confident?
Step 5. Study the evidence.		
Week 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstract of critical article • Read at least two scholarly articles related to project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note-taking strategies • Summarize critical arguments • Understand where your ideas fit in • Sharing ideas in scholarly community 	How did the scholars you read position your chosen novel in the field? What strategies will you use to demonstrate your knowledge of this scholarship? What did you learn about making arguments from this reading? What did you learn about your own writing? What counts as evidence in our discipline? How are your reading practices different from those of the scholars you read?
Step 6. Make a commitment.		

<p>Week 9-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research proposal • Revision of research proposal • Read and comment on other proposals • Logan returns proposals with comments and conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing abstracts for conference papers (joining a scholarly dialogue, finding one’s “edge”; responding to a CFP effectively) • Cover letter and c.v. 	<p>The following brainstorming questions may unleash inspiration. My paper/project is about the following topic: The aspects of the novel and this course I find most compelling are ____.</p> <p>Some critics who have talked about this issue believe that: These critics discuss the following aspects of the topic I wish to pursue: My essay will argue that: The critics I’ve read will be important to my thesis because: However, my work is different from theirs in that: The weirdest/coolest/most confusing thing about this novel is: In order to prove my thesis I will have to explain/prove: Other people will want to hear about my project because: I have no idea how I am going to solve:</p>
<p>Step 7. Test your hypothesis.</p>		
<p>Week 10-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft conference essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemble, develop, and sustain an argument • Consider and compile evidence from primary and secondary sources • Use theoretical paradigms to anchor arguments • Determine where more research is necessary 	<p>General kvetching about writing process...</p>
<p>Step 8. Revise and Revisit.</p>		
<p>Week 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Review of finished drafts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating arguments • Responding to written work in an intellectual community 	<p>What did you learn about writing from reading these papers? What will you incorporate into your own work? What questions do you have about your draft?</p>
<p>Step 9. Presenting your Research Project.</p>		
<p>Week 14-15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished essay due • Conference presentation • Annotated bibliography due • Final research portfolio due (Blog) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use feedback to revise • Organize and prepare for academic conference • Present basic arguments in a live forum • Ask questions and moderate discussions • Present academic information in online settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has your view of the research process shifted? • How has your view of your writing and thinking shifted?