

Responding to an Assignment

All composing takes place within a rhetorical situation. Remember that genre is a social response to a rhetorical situation. In this chapter, we will follow one of Amy's former students, Gwen Ganow, as she composes in response to the rhetorical situation of an assignment in her writing course. Here is the assignment she was given, along with her annotations. (Note: It's a good idea to annotate an assignment to make sure you understand it and to help you think through the different steps.)

ATTENTION, COMPOSERS

As we follow Gwen's process, and the processes of other composers in this book, keep in mind that there is no one correct or best way to respond to an assignment, do research, or revise your writing. We provide sample processes in order to offer various contexts that you can learn from, adapt, and, if helpful, apply to your own processes.



Credit: Courtesy Gwen Dalynn Ganow.

► STUDENT AUTHOR PHOTO

Gwen Ganow, a graduate of Red Rocks Community College and Metropolitan State University of Denver, is now a Colorado State Parks Ranger.

Annotated Example | Reading an Academic Text

ASSIGNMENT **Amy Braziller**, "Take a Position," with Notes by **Gwen Ganow** (STUDENT)

English 121 English Composition		
Date: November 1, 2016 Assignment: Take a Position		
Argue?	Take a position on a topic you care about and have experience with. Then think about who you want to communicate your ideas to and compose in a genre that will allow you to do that.	
I get to pick the genre	You may compose in any genre that seems appropriate for your purpose and audience. The length should be appropriate to the genre; in other words, a magazine article will have more words than a poster. Be sure to choose a genre that will allow you to communicate with the audience you have in mind.	
Movies, video games, outdoors, comics, animals?	For sources, you should primarily draw upon your own experience . If you wish, you can use other source material if it is appropriate to your genre choice and topic.	My experience. For this assignment, research is optional.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brainstorm potential topics you have experience with and could take a position on.2. Select the topic you are most excited about and take a position. You might find freewriting useful to help you articulate your position.3. Consider your rhetorical situation. You know your purpose is to take a position and try to convince others of its merit. Who are the others you are convincing? That is your audience.4. What genres might that audience encounter? List three of them that would allow you to achieve your purpose and	What do I want to say? Who do I want to say it to?