



UNIVERSITY *of*
DENVER

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

Identity in Research

Dr. Aubrey Schiavone
University Writing Center
University of Denver



Agenda: Identity in Research

- ❖ Introductions: Who are we and what do we do?
- ❖ Some Best Practices
 - ❖ Research Methods
 - ❖ Your Discipline or Field
 - ❖ Researcher Subjectivity
 - ❖ Collaboration
 - ❖ Participant Identities
- ❖ Reflection and Conversation
- ❖ Resources and References

Introductions

- Your name
- Your program of study
- Where you are in that program (ie: third-year, course work, thesis, dissertation, job market)
- A topic you are interested in, research, or study

Some Caveats...

- Our experiences with identity in research will be different from one another's
 - Research is always situated in your discipline and sub-discipline
 - Depends heavily on the research methodologies you use
 - Influenced by your subjectivity and positionality as a researcher
 - Influenced by the identities and positionalities of research participants
- Let's try to extrapolate some useful principles and guidelines anyway

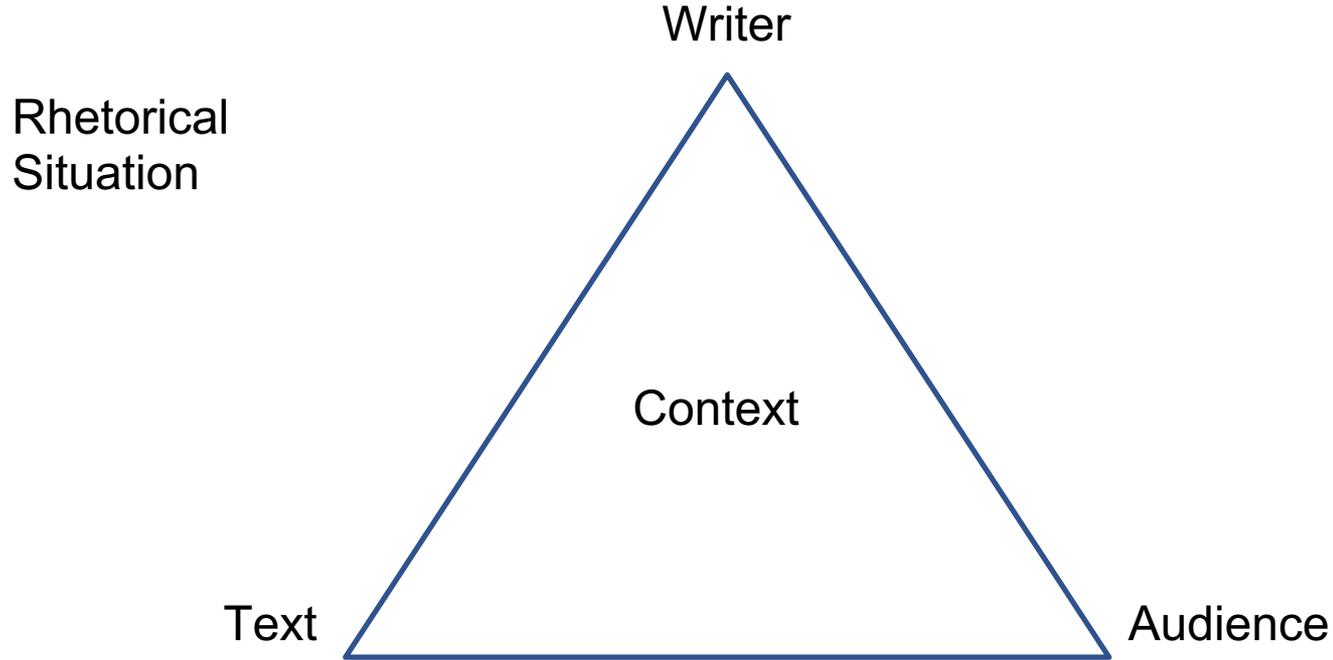
Best Practices: Research Methods

- Qualitative
- Quantitative
- Text-based
- Archival
- Experimental

Best Practices: Research Methods

- What kinds of research methodologies do you often use or are you currently using for your research project(s)?
- What potential problems or biases do these methodologies entail?
- What can you do as you design and conduct your research and analyze data to help account for a range of participant identities?

Best Practices: Your Discipline or Field



Best Practices: Your Discipline or Field

- In what ways do other scholars in your field address issues of identity in their published research?
- Can you do some rhetorical analyses of publications or studies similar to your own in order to see how those studies address the role of identity?
- How/when can you speak with colleagues, mentors, or fellow scholars doing work similar to your own or work that inspires you?

Best Practices: Researcher Subjectivity

- “[standpoint] theorists have figured out how to use oppressed, dominated, and exploited social positions to identify otherwise hidden realities of social life” (Harding, 2005, p. 351)
- Intersectionality (Crenshaw, 1991)
- Community Cultural Wealth (Yosso, 2005)
- Resilience
- Implicit Bias
- Cultural Literacy and Cultural Bias
- Privilege

Best Practices: Researcher Subjectivity

- What work needs to be done?
- What questions need to be answered?
- What methodologies would be appropriate for doing this work or answering these questions?
- Why should you be doing this work?

Best Practices: Researcher Subjectivity

- What aspects of your identity might pose some challenges for you while conducting the research you have planned? While analyzing and interpreting data?
 - What implicit biases might you have to address or minimize while conducting your planned research? While analyzing and interpreting data?
- What aspects of your identity might be considered strengths that position you well to do the research and analyses you have planned?

Best Practices: Collaborative Research

- What affordances or limitations might collaboration entail for you and your research?
- It's important to consider divisions of labor between collaborators and how that labor might map onto traditional gender roles, racial stereotypes, or additional facets of identity.
- How might you and your collaborators view your identities as strengths you bring to the research?

Best Practices: Participant Identities

- How can you account for a range of different intersectional identity categories in your
 - Study design?
 - Data collection?
 - Data analysis and interpretation?
 - Writing and publication?
- What opportunities do participants have to reflect on and represent their own experiences or identities?

Best Practices: Writing and Publication

- How might you structure in a specific section or sub-section about the role of identity in your research?
 - Are there any narratives or anecdotes or specific data points from your research that might be included in such a section or sub-section?
- How might you reflect on issues of identity throughout your research process so that you can archive and record those issues?

Let's Discuss

- What did you write about in your reflections?
- What's been useful to you so far from the best practices presented here?
- What connections, comparisons, or contrasts did you make to your own experiences, research, or identities?
- How might you incorporate some of the suggestions from the workshop today into your own research and writing processes?
- What questions or comments do you still have about identity in research?

Resources



Individual Writing Center Consultations



Free, interactive, online consultations (45 minutes) using Zoom and Google docs for any writer, any project, any stage of the writing process. We're open six days a week.



To view our schedule and make an appointment:

<https://du.mywconline.com>



Writing Center Offerings



University Writing Center
Resources for DU Writers

We are happy to be able to share resources our colleagues in our writing center. If you have a resource, please write to us at wrc@du.edu. We are happy to work with you.

Learning a Citation Style

Citation styles like APA, MLA, and Turabian can be learned! Seek out models and resources, pay attention to the small details, and practice consistency.

Doing a [Citation Translation Exercise](#) is a great exercise for helping yourself to notice all the small details in citations.

Editing for Consistency

Informal workshops for groups of 3+ writers on any topic

To contact us: wrc@du.edu

Examples:

- Learning to use APA style
- Paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting
- Learning to edit your own writing
- Writing literature reviews or annotated bibliographies

Resources including webinars and handouts for specific assignments, genres, and processes

- To access resources: <https://portfolio.du.edu/writingcenter>

Workshop Q & A

Thank you for participating in this Writing Center workshop.

- Do you have a question about a topic addressed in the workshop?
- Do you have a question about a topic not addressed in the workshop?

We invite you to submit questions through the survey at the link listed below, and we will follow up with an answer!

Direct questions to: <http://bit.ly/31CoVxu>



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

Sources

- Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review* 43, 1241-1299.
- Harding, S. (2005). Negotiating the positivist legacy: New social justice movements and a standpoint politics of method. In G. Steinmetz (Ed.), *The Politics of Method in the Human Sciences: Positivism and Its Epistemological Others* (pp. 346-365). Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Yosso, T. (2005). Whose culture has capital? A critical race theory discussion of community cultural wealth. *Race, Ethnicity, and Education* 8(1), 69-91.

