

9/26: Presentation/Discussion: Dueling Narratives, Opposing Logics: New Dealers and Boosters and the Ropesville Project

- Goals:
 - understanding intellectual conflicts in historical scholarship; seeing how scholars use strategies in academic articles
 - see how these things play out in real life

- Dust Bowl narratives and Cronon's "A Place for Stories"
 - the importance of "*stories*"
 - postmodernism = for us, going deeper and thinking about how stories are constructed
 - significance of epigrams, block quotes; read footnotes and notice their purpose; see how narrative is tied to argument; when reading, slow down and look up words or ideas when you need to; learn how to skim - introduction/conclusion or abstract and the first six paragraphs usually the most important
 - Bonnifield's *The Dust Bowl* (natural disaster and people persevered; government didn't need to step in) v. Worster's *Dust Bowl* (man-made disaster; government help came too late)
 - other takeaways: history of positive v. negative tales of the Great Plains and the Dust Bowl; repetition = reiterating point and providing new evidence

- Back to Ropesville Settlement Project and "Level of Living"
 - "Agricultural wonderland"
 - New Deal government program to create model communities
 - Lubbock's proposal → Roosevelt formed Resettlement Administration → Rexford Tugwell in charge

- main idea: can a family with every single opportunity operate a small farm on the Great Plains? (the results of this is what report covers)
- The Dust Bowl, Ropesville, and Thinking about Narratives...



- 4 common *narratives* (Ropesville can probably fit into each)
 - 1.) boy meets girl
 - 2.) rise and fall
 - 3.) quest
 - 4.) stranger comes to town

* Story of a savior (New Deal government)

* Rise and fall of agriculture on the Great Plains (Worster)

* Good people being tested (Bonnifield)

★ Conclusion about this place's ecology: it's dry (moments where it can be farm, but long-term some technological innovation to overcome the reality of the environment; also, need for farming on much larger plots)

9/28: Workshop: Building the Five-Paragraph Research Paper

- “Intellectual Engagement Opportunities” (see Voices website for more info)
- Paragraph summaries: research online for basic information and get a sense of what it is, write it down, then turn it in (by email) - this is a part of professionalism grade
- *5-paragraph research paper on Dust Bowl Art* due by 5:00 pm on Sun. October 1st
 - use your notes from before and see other helpful information below...

- Steps to Writing a History Research Paper
 - Research: for this paper, Dust Bowl art (see examples from class, use [Libraries](#) to search online, jstor.org, etc.)
 - ex: New Deal art on the Dust Bowl
<https://www.jstor.org/action/doBasicSearch?Query=New+Deal+art+on+the+Dust+Bowl&efqs=eyJkaXNjIjpbIllYSjBhR2x6ZEc5eWVtMWthWE5qYVhCc2FXNWwiLCJhR2x6ZEc5eWVtMWthWE5qYVhCc2FXNWwiXX0%3D&sd=2000&ed=2023>
 - Come up with a historical question (it has to be specific, measurable, *answerable*)
 - examples...
 - How did the federal government utilize art to influence Americans' perspectives?
 - Did Dust Bowl art accurately represent environmental realities?
 - How did Dust Bowl music reflect American anxiety?
 - How did artists depict the American farmer? OR Why did some artists choose not to depict the American farmer?
 - How are landscapes of Dust Bowl art reflective of modern artists' sensibilities?
 - What motivated Dust Bowl artists?
 - How did ideas about "wilderness" shape Dust Bowl art?
 - Approach
 - what is the best way I can answer my question? AND which source will be most useful?
 - gather information (one process to use: notice things that stand out to you, write thoughts into complete sentences on computer), then organize ideas into a short outline, then stop and start writing; write for an audience - your classmate...
 - write 3 body paragraphs first (then write introduction and conclusion - ideas can flow and make more sense this way)

- use topic sentences, transitions; use 1st-person POV if that works for you and paper can be convincing; use Chicago style with footnotes - that's all that's needed (see link below)...
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/index.html
- introduction:
 - use a hook (give an interesting fact, tell a story, etc. - something that engages the reader *and* that is relevant → 1-2 sentences)
 - lay it out - tell the reader directly what you're doing and what your argument is; explain any key terms, include any key facts
 - then tell the reader *how* you're going to do it (what evidence, connections)
- conclusion:
 - why does this matter, why should we care?
 - end with a provocative statement
- write it, finish it, read it aloud, revise/edit, send it out

* Send it by email through a pdf attachment - like this -
"bairddrewdustbowlpaper"