PROPOSAL AND GOALS

To develop a syllabus that incorporates digital humanities theory and practice in the instruction of Seton Hall’s First Year Writing Courses, specifically through the theme of Race and Social Justice. The pilot courses will focus on teaching students to create and view their own “Language Landscapes” in the hopes of developing new and innovative ways to teach how language concerning social justice operates and evolves over time and through space. Language Landscapes will be visual representations of large changes, shifts or evolutions of language made possible by the powerful analytics tools that technology offers us. The courses will explore questions of digital literacy. They will allow students to consider themselves as digital citizens, asking that they visualize their source work to view a macro-context of their inquiry that will complement, not replace, close reading and traditional source use. Students will produce a portfolio of visual narrative projects concerning the presence of oppression and inequality in our society.

• Major goal: Promoting recursive research and writing based on discovery and evolution of research questions.

• Showing injustice in communities and allowing students to explore those issues in a “sandbox.”
POSSIBLE TOOLS: HATHI TRUST
HATHI CONT. HEATMAP
HATHI CONT’ WORLD/WORD MAP

Bookworm Map
See where a word occurs in the 15 million volume HathiTrust collection.

Locations correspond to the places that volumes were published in.

Search For a Term

`color`

Combine search words with a comma. Only single word queries supported.

Optional: Compare to another term

`colour`

Update Words

Type of Map
- Scatter
- Color

Map Scope
- World
- USA

‘color’ vs. ‘colour’ in the HathiTrust

JAM
Jamaica
Words Per Million
'color': 14.2
'colour': 160.4
THE SANDBOX: POLICY MAP
ASSIGNMENT 1
WHERE STUDENTS WRITE ABOUT VISUALIZATIONS

Your Data and You

Data visualization and Data Science play an increasing role in our lives. Because of this, more decisions will be made based on actionable insights found in this data. The challenges lie in who controls this data and who is suffering or benefitting from its use. The goal of this essay will be finding visualized data that is either effective or misleading. Then, you will analyze it in conversation with your own personal experience.

• Step 1 (1 page): I want you to find a piece of visualized data. This piece should have some relevance to your life. It should reflect some concern you have that impacts you. This can include race, gender, economy, environment, sexuality, gun violence, etc. Analyze precisely what this visualization shows and what it omits. What is it attempting to communicate?

• Step 2 (1.5 pages): I want you to write a narrative that reflects on your personal experience with your political issue and your concern with how the visualization represents it. In this section, you’re telling a story—a story about your life. This should be something that impacts you personally and something that is related to the larger statistic you found in your visualization.

• Step 3 (1.5 pages): I want you to propose to your audience a “more full” understanding of the issue. Discuss what you hope they will take away from the conversation between your narrative and your chart or graph. At this time, I want you to use one of the readings from class to help complicate your argument. This can include any part of the Summer reading or the articles on blackboard. (Most students chose climate issues.)
SAMPLE CLASS ACTIVITY
FINDING BIAS IN VISUALIZED DATA

This chart, compiled using United Nations data collected by Simon Rogers for the Guardian, shows that America far and away leads other developed countries when it comes to gun-related homicides. Why? Extensive reviews of the research, compiled by the Harvard School of Public Health’s Injury Control Research Center, suggest the answer is pretty simple: The US is an outlier on gun violence because it has way more guns than other developed nations.

2) America has 4.4 percent of the world’s population, but almost half of the civilian-owned guns around the world

4) On average, there is around one mass shooting for each day in America

336 days, 355 mass shootings
Number of mass shootings (4+ victims, including shooter) by day of year, 2015
ASSIGNMENT 2
WHERE THEY CREATE THEIR OWN VISUALIZATION AS PART OF A RECURSIVE RESEARCH PROCESS

Persuasive Essay
Length: 5 pages
Must have Works Cited page

Assignment number #1:
• Familiarizing yourself to the issue: for this part of the essay, you should be solely finding sources and information. Then, write a few paragraphs where you put these sources into conversation with one another. Give your reader some idea of the issue, the opposing sides, and their complexities. Think about the They Say, I Say technique. Show us the nuances of the issue.
• Use Policy Map to explore your topic, set parameters, and play with how your topic exists geographically.
• #2: Develop your own argument. Weigh the pros and cons of each side and then choose which side you wish to support. Pretend you’re writing to the President, what are you going to say to him? What techniques will you use to persuade him one way or another (ethos, pathos, logos.) During this phase, you should develop a thesis statement.

• #3: Rough draft. Pull together all of the parts and deliver a well organized, informative, persuasive analysis of the issue.
• ###Choosing your issue: it must be something specific. You should focus on some political argument: economy, immigration, environment, health care, education, drugs, mental health, affirmative action, foreign policy, bullying. Keep in mind that this assignment hinges on you wanting something. Be clear about exactly what you want, and tell us why it makes sense that we want it too.
• As part of your final draft, you will be asked to include your own data visualization that you create through Policy Map or any of the other tools on the Seton Hall Library Website.
marginalized in some way. As said by Best "This is how contemporary Americans create new social problems. Typically, the process involves a three-part recipe: 1) Illustrate the problem with an awful example (e.g., the mass murder at Columbine High School). 2) Give the problem a name ("school shootings"). 3) Use statistics to suggest the problem’s size and importance". (Best). These steps make the school shooting situation seem as if it is a tool used to further progress the discussion of certain political issues over actual reporting and if that idea is true, then the media is profiting highly off of reporting these crimes.

These two graphs display the information over different time periods, with the bottom graph going back ten years, and the top graph covering the year of 2018. Both of these blue line trend graphs are focused on the searches of google consumers when using the keyword “school shootings” in the news section tab of google. The peaks in data correlate with when the shootings happened, and the two largest spikes in data on the lower graph are the most talked about school shootings in recent memory, the Sandy Hook shooting of 2012, and the Parkland shooting of 2018. The red and yellow lines are shown as common topics that usually follow a discourse after a school shooting. The relatively low results for mental health show that even if some mental illness is to cause a school shooting it will always be less discussed/looked up than the actual event itself.
STUDENT VISUALIZATION AND WRITING
However, it became necessary to further shrink the range in order to garner the most effective, concrete results. Consequently, the lower parameter of $75,000 was derived after taking into account the potential conditions of the houses. Rather than assuming an extremely miniscule lower parameter, such as the previous limit of $50,000, would provide a house that is functioning and in conditions to pass state inspections, it was a safe assumption that an additional $25,000 would allow the potential house seekers to explore low-class homes that have a slightly higher standard of living while accounting for some repair costs. Finally, the $80,000 high limit ensured that the results being populated were still classified as low-income households instead of middle-class houses that need “a little bit of...
STUDENT VISUALIZATION AND WRITING

Or: https://shu-policymap-com.ezproxy.shu.edu/analytics

Colleges are gradually getting more expensive with time by the year. The majority of New Jersey seniors have college debt exceeding over 30,000 dollars. Some can afford it, but unfortunately, residents in citiestowns like Paterson cannot, it doesn’t seem fair to be punished by debt. It is
EVALUATIONS

Positive:

• Learning about visualization was very interesting to me. I never had to use visuals in my writing, which of course made it very difficult to do so in this class, but the challenge was worth it. More and more articles are using visuals these days and learning about it this year will make it easier for me to understand and even more observe the use of visuals in writings.

• Essays could be very difficult to write especially if one does not know which type of writing to do. It has been a while since I've taken an English course, but I thought reviewing the different types of essays were both useful and important. Like the visualization, writing the different types of essays was a challenge, but nonetheless, it was a good challenge.

Negative:

• All the papers were back to back, but the papers weren't difficult, the time we had for all of them made things difficult. Data visualization coming in so early.

• The most difficult to learn for me was applying visualization in my writing.
RESOURCES AND LINKS

• https://analytics.hathitrust.org/explore