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Writing 220  
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### **Repurposing Project: Proposal**

**Topic:** I am going to repurpose a biographical research paper I wrote for my First Year Seminar on Immigration, a course that I took during my fall semester of freshmen year (Fall 2011) at Hope College before I was a student at the University of Michigan. The paper follows the story of my grandfather in detail as he was taken from his home in Poland at 18, forced to fight in the Nazi army, his escape, meeting my grandmother in a German refugee camp, and their eventual immigration to Detroit, Michigan. It is about ten pages long and I primarily used the sources of my grandfather's memoir about his wartime reminiscences, as well as researched data dealing with WW2 statistics, particularly focused on Polish immigrants. For Project II, my intention is to convert this third-person biographical research paper into a first-person narrative. My original paper will be repurposed into a short story with historically accurate, yet exaggerated, detail, catering to the emotionally gripping side of the story. I therefore want to appeal to both ethos and logos, and have the story reflect the atrocities that surrounded those caught in the middle of the Second World War. Although my ideas are not finalized, for Project III, I would like to create a short film, composed of segmented interviews with my grandfather, who is currently 93 and very much competent. These segmented interviews would then be interwoven with either footage of my own displaying facts about the war, or from another source, to help strengthen the message of the video. Project III would cater mostly to ethos and less to logos.

**Audience:** My target audience for the restructured piece would be the general population of highly educated adults and young adults. This is the general demographic of those who read the *New Yorker*. As mentioned, my piece would be a first-person; fictional short story laced in a historically accurate setting, so specifically my story would be intended for those readers of the *New Yorker* more interested in history. For my interview/video restructuring in Project III, I am intending the audience to be that of a slightly younger age, and therefore less educated audience. The content in the video will still have emotional and historical appeals, but the language will be simpler and therefore the message will be less complex.

**Medium:** For Project II my medium will be a typed, few page article, formatted to the *New Yorker's* style, possibly with a picture and a caption. Project III will be a digital film, possibly combined with multimedia tools like power point slides.

**Sources:** For Project II one of my sources will be a couple issues of the *New Yorker* to get a sense of the format for their published short stories. I am familiar with the magazine, but I would like to see specifically how they run their short stories and the style of literature they tend to use. I also plan on referencing works that describe how to write an effective short story, especially if I can find one that talks about first-person short stories. Other potential sources

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include popular media portrayals of wartime stories, particularly with the Polish in WW2, individuals who are forced to fight for armies, and stories of wartime immigration. As for Project III, obviously my grandfather will be the primary source, but my other sources may focus more on immigration statistics rather than WW2 statistics.