
Writer's Statement about "Rhetorical Treasure Hunting: Geocaching and the Usage of Multiple Literacies"

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I wrote this research paper back in my freshman year for my English Composition I course. The objective was to conduct research that somehow ties back to writing, rhetoric, or English composition and write an extensive research paper based on the findings. Naturally, I thought of a research paper to be quite tedious and uninteresting. I thought of it as just another assignment that I dreaded doing. What I discovered was that I was very much wrong.

It was quite difficult to come up with a topic that I enjoyed and that could be related to writing, rhetoric, or English composition. Through weeks of brainstorming and countless conversations with my professor, it seemed as if I was doomed for this assignment. I genuinely did not have the slightest clue as to what I wanted to research. I felt as if I was a lunatic in a straightjacket; I had all these potential ideas, but none that I could really elaborate on. I was stuck.

And then one day it hit me. My topic to research came about while I was doing the very thing I ended up doing my research on: geocaching. I was out hiking and geocaching on a nearby trail when I realized that the very process of geocaching and the geocaching community that thrived was something worth writing about. I discovered that the idea of proving that geocaching literacy did indeed exist was something worth proving. I had found my niche.

Now, I realize my paper on geocaching literacy and multiple literacies may seem a bit long-stretched at times for some readers. And that's okay. I hope other readers and writers will unearth, just as I have, that conducting research doesn't have to be boring. It's about looking at something that you are curious about or that you have a passion for in-depth. It's about thinking into detail with your noggin'. It's about discovering and making connections. It's about allowing others to see what you have figured out. So go ahead, have a little fun. Find your niche.