

WR325, Rhetoric of Professional Writing Stasis Worksheet

Conjecture (fact)

What do we know?

- History of the organization (who, what, when, where, why, how?)?
- Mission of the organization (what sort of local problems/issues do they address?)?
- Current members and their roles?
- Current initiatives/projects?
- Collaborators/partners (for example, Richnor Springs collaborates with the York Road Partnership, which in turn works with the Greater Homewood Community Corporation)?
- Challenges (what are some of the major roadblocks to the organization's success?)
- Future plans?

Definition

How are we defining important terms or ideas?

- What are the definitions of the important ideas or issues the non-profit deals with? Hunger? How do they define hunger? How does the state/city define hunger? Employment? How do they define employment? Full-time? Part-time? Benefits? "Livable wage?"

Quality (importance)

How important is the topic we are investigating?

- How important is the non-profit's work? Are we talking about a non-profit dedicated to raising awareness about local wines? Or are we talking about a non-profit that deals with hunger and access to health care? (Keep in mind, raising awareness about local wines is not an unimportant endeavor. Invigorating local business is usually a good thing!)
- How important is the non-profit's mission, etc.? In a way, you will be making a value decision here.

Policy

Should we do something about the situation or topic, or might someone else be more appropriate to take action?

If we are going to do something, what is it that we should do?

- In this case, what you're doing is completing an information report. So for this stasis, you might think about your qualifications to do this. But you might also turn this stasis toward the organization to investigate what the non-profit does and whether or not they have succeeded in their mission