English 102: Inquiry into the South

Please login to your computers
Group Work: Defining the Genre

- Based on class discussions, what can you claim to be conventions of the SOS/ literature review genre?
- What does a survey of scholarship do? What does it avoid doing?
- How would one identify a SOS?
More questions on the genre of the SOS or how to adhere to it?
The Rubric
Begin drafting your introduction by reading back over your body paragraphs.

Think: what do I need to tell my readers in the introduction so that they can understand the body of my argument? How can I explain my approach to my survey? How much background information should I give so that my claims make sense? What can I include in the introduction to make reading my argument easier to understand and more effective?
Introductions

✦ Define or identify the general topic, issue, or area of concern, and provide an appropriate context for your approach to surveying the scholarship.

✦ Point out overall trends in research on what has been published about the topic; or conflicts in theory, methodology, evidence, and conclusions; or gaps in research and scholarship.

✦ Establish the writer's (your) reason (point of view) for surveying the scholarship and what lead you to frame the scholarship in this way; explain the criteria to be used in analyzing and comparing scholarship and the organization of the survey (sequence); and, when necessary, state why certain scholarship is or is not included (scope).
Final Tip: Assert, don’t report

- Make sure that you are not writing a report on the topic.
- Instead, frame your work as an argument about the state of research on the topic.
Final Tip: Assert, don’t report

Example:

Thesis: Current research agrees that there is a relationship between southern cooking and southern culture and identity. While scholars do not always agree on which linkages are the most important in this relationship, southern history, southern geography, and southern climate are central points in the field.

Report: Cooking in the South has a long history with connections to its agrarian past and post-Civil War poverty.

Assert: Research on southern cooking agrees that it is very important to understand historical factors in its evolution; primarily, scholars point to the South’s agrarian past and post-Civil War poverty as factors that greatly contributed to the link between southern cooking and southern culture.
Common Problems: Reporting

- Your objective is not to teach readers about the topic you are researching, though some of that will come across as a byproduct, but to make readers aware of the current state of scholarship on the topic. The ongoing debates, the major points of interest, why this topic is important now – your objective is to catch your readers up on the current academic discourse on the topic.
You're listing here. Synthesis requires you to discuss the sources in relation to one another. You have a sentence that says what Budiansky does, then one that says what Rosenberg does, then one that says what Birkerts does, but you never say how they interact. As writers, it is our jobs to make sure that it is impossible for our readers to not see the connections we want them to see. Never make the reader infer anything – tell them exactly what you want them to know.
Common Problems: Plagiarism

- Make sure your quotes, paraphrases, and summaries are well cited and introduced.
- Make sure you use all of the sources on your works cited page.
Check Bb and the Blog for a final tips sheet.
Homework

Homework: Submit your paper to Bb before the start of class on Monday.

Bring a copy of your conclusion to class.