

PARATEXT #4: LETTER OF INQUIRY AND INTENT TO JONATHAN

PEARSON

Dear Jonathan,

We are writing at the recommendation of Jane Greer from the journal *Young Scholars in Writing*.

We are very interested in making a short film and an article that publicizes the great work that undergraduates are doing in *YSW*. Having read your wonderful essay, "From Wellesley to Yale, 1969-1979: A Textual Analysis of Hillary Rodham's Early Rhetoric," we would love to go to Dallas and interview you. Attached is a description of our project. Please let us know if you are interested. We would both be delighted to talk with you via phone or Skype to get things started. Thank you for considering our request.

Best,
Joe and Sylwester

Proposed Approach

We propose an article and short film entitled "Anatomy of an Article." Our work will explore the process of an undergraduate student writer getting their work published in the refereed journal *Young Scholars in Writing* <http://www.bk.psu.edu/Academics/Degrees/26432.htm> The journal is dedicated to helping undergraduates publish their research in Rhetoric and Composition.

The story we would like to tell is twofold:

1. We will show how *Young Scholars in Writing (YSW)* offers purposeful mentoring and intellectual support to undergraduate writers as they make their scholarship and research more visible and more public.
2. We will explain how the process of collaborating in order to mentor student work toward publication provides rigorous and supportive learning experiences for all involved. This includes all stakeholders such as authors, classroom teachers, peer reviewers, editorial board members, and the editors.

Proposed Plot

We plan to tell the story of one author who takes their work from class essay to published article. In order to make sure that our authors are well treated, we suggest telling the story of an author (and an article) that has already been published.

We would like to highlight the process of revision and intellectual development as the author and other stakeholders proceed in the journey from submitting a class essay to

turning it into a published scholarly article. The process includes filming the authors, consulting with the peer reviewers (whose comments we have), and interviewing the Faculty Advisor and the journal's editor. Our goal is to highlight the ongoing dialogue and the learning process each "stakeholder" experiences as the article evolves.