

Part 4. First-Year Composition Class Initial Reading of Michel Foucault

Over the next two weeks we'll be reading and discussing Michel Foucault's "Panopticism" while learning more researching skills. Be prepared to share your response to #1 on Tuesday April 8. Both responses #1 and #2 will be due in class, on paper, on Thursday April 10. Groups 3 and 4 will present on Thursday.

1. Read Michel Foucault's "Panopticism," pp. 223-253. Note four passages from the text that you have questions about or a response to--include page numbers. Just write down the passages without trying to explain on paper what they mean or why they're confusing. We'll discuss these in class. Also, look up four words that you don't understand from the text. Be sure to include page numbers for the words. We'll share this information in class.

2. Re-read Foucault's "Panopticism." Rather briefly, try to explain in your own words what you think Foucault's "panopticon" means. That is, what is this form? What does the panopticon mean in connection to his ideas about discipline, or order or surveillance? Your explanation might be tentative, uncertain, or a bit confused, which is OK. We'll be working on understanding Foucault's main argument and the evidence he uses to support it. This time around, identify a recurring word, idea, or image that seems to have a particular connection to your own life. Be prepared to share this in class.