

## Research Notebooks (RNBs)

This course emphasizes reading as a process that includes writing, research, and re-reading. Your RNB is a record of your careful, engaged reading of each major text we study in this class, beginning with *Richard II* and ending with *Hamlet*. You'll complete this work in multiple sittings over the two weeks we study each play.

What follows are instructions for a challenging, semester-long project worth more than a third of your final grade (35%). There is a rhythm to the process once you get going. Reviewing this handout early and often is the best way to stay on track. As you review the handout, mark it up with any questions you might have. I will host at least one out-of-class RNB Workshop (attendance is voluntary). I also invite students to come by office hours individually or in groups to discuss the research process. Finally, I can direct interested students toward "RNB Alums," former students who are passionate about research and teaching and who have offered to help out if needed.

In addition to the instructions here, I encourage you to check out the RNB Hive web site at [rnbhive.joshuacalhoun.org](http://rnbhive.joshuacalhoun.org). The Hive supplements but does not replace this prompt. Technically, you could earn an "A" working only from the prompt. It has all the basic information you need to complete the assignment. But the Hive has helpful supplementary materials such as a sample RNB, tutorial videos, and a list of important dates related to the assignment. If you're feeling stuck, need some direction, or need some inspiration, it's a terrific place to procrastinate.

### The Assignment

**Exercises:** For each play, complete 4 of the 10 exercises below. You must complete *each* RNB Exercise twice over the course of the semester. See the table below for more details.

Word Study	Publication History
Scene Study (film)	Bibliographic Comparison
Stage Adaptations	Environmental Analysis
Character Investigation	Reappropriation
Annotated Bibliography	Hobbyhorse

**Wildcard Bonus:** The wildcard is a non-required, curious adventure of your choosing. Early in the semester, this section might be an extension of one (or possibly two) of the 10 exercises. So, for instance, you might find yourself immersed in a word study and/or adaptation study, and you may wish to go well beyond the "page of notes" requirement. At other times, you may wish to pursue a different line of inquiry that is unrelated to the exercises. You may earn from 1 to 4 bonus points for the wildcard.

**Best Discovery:** The last section of your RNB will be a short paragraph that highlights the best discovery you made while completing the RNB. This summary should be written up in full sentences. Begin by stating clearly what you found, then explain why it is important (or exciting, or unusual, or crucial, etc.). Toward the end of the paragraph, discuss how you might build an essay around the evidence you discovered.

## RNB Exercises

Exercise	Focus	Outcomes
<b>Word Study</b>	1-2 words from the play	information about etymology, development, usage in Shakespeare and/or other Renaissance texts
<b>Scene Study (Film)</b>	two film versions of one scene	observations about setting, line editing, casting, costuming, camera angles, etc.
<b>Stage Adaptations</b>	2-3 stage adaptations of the play	observations about staging, casting, costuming, public response, etc.
<b>Character Investigation</b>	one character	information about original/historical person, history of representation on stage/film, character afterlife, etc.
<b>Annotated Bibliography</b>	two academic essays, one electronic and one print	4-5 sentence annotations that put the two essays in conversation
<b>Publication History</b>	16th- and 17th-century print sources	annotated catalog of early printing of the play and of secondary resources related to the play
<b>Bibliographic Comparison</b>	two print versions of one scene	observations on similarities/differences between a scene in the course text and in a pre-1900 printed version of the play; must be completed in Special Collections
<b>Environmental Interpretation</b>	social ecology and representations of the natural world	investigation of the history and usage of one plant, animal, or mineral mentioned in the play
<b>Reappropriation</b>	a cultural object that re-visions the play/ converts it into a surprising format	description of object, information about its creation, observations about its relationship to the play
<b>Hobbyhorse</b>	individual, subjective area of interest	a series of answerable questions and subsequent findings

### Format

**Length:** There is no set amount of space that each of the RNB Exercises above will require. Let the research determine length. That said, one full, single-spaced page (12pt font) would be a reasonable average length for *each* RNB Exercise.

It may help to think of each exercise as one hour of research and about a page of notes. There are plenty of variables. Some students will write out notes by hand. Most students will, at some point, include images, charts, or even sketches that might fill up a page without filling up the requisite hour of research.

**Citations:** Any time you use outside research—and you'll be doing that a lot for the RNBs—you need to cite your source. Each RNB should end with a Works Cited. Do be careful to properly mark any language you quote directly from the source.

**Electronic v. Hard Copy:** Students typically choose to keep electronic RNBs. As long as you have access to your RNB in class, that is fine. If you prefer, you may also keep a hard copy. Either way, at checkpoints during the semester and at the end of the semester, RNBs should be turned in as hard copies.

**Arrangement:**

- Whenever hard copy RNBs are turned in (at checkpoints and at the end of the semester) they must be bound in a Report Cover.
- Each RNB should have a title page and divider.
- Each RNB Exercise should begin on a new page and should be clearly labeled at the top of the page using the exercise titles on the first page of this handout.
- Each RNB should end with a Works Cited.
- Include an Exercise Checklist as the final page of your RNB (see below for checklist).

## **Grading**

Grading is based on content, timely completion, and quality as outlined below. RNBs are technically due every other week, but they will be turned in all together on Thurs., 12/4. They are worth 35% of the final grade.

**Content: Basic Requirements (75/100 points):** For the purposes of grading, each of your 5 RNBs is worth up to 15 points; each exercise as well as the research summary is worth up to 3 (out of those 15) points. Simply completing the basic requirements (4 exercises + research summary) earns you 75 out of 100 possible points.

**Timely Completion (5/100 points):** Class discussion on the last day we study a play will revolve around your RNB efforts and discoveries. If you do not have a completed RNB with you in class, your final grade will be docked. If you must miss class on a RNB due date, please email the assignment before class starts in order to receive full credit for timely completion.

**Wildcard Bonus (20/100 points):** The Wildcard allows you to go beyond Basic Requirements and timely Completion and earn an A on the RNB project.

**Academic Integrity:** Any instances of academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will be penalized according to University policy. Refer to this link <[students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html](http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html)) for a definition of academic misconduct and an outline of University procedures and possible consequences. Ignorance is no excuse.

## RNB Exercise Index

For each play, indicate which Exercises you completed and check them off the list below.

### ***Richard II***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Best Discovery Summary  
 Wildcard (not required)

### ***1 Henry IV***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Best Discovery Summary?  
 Wildcard? (not required)

### ***2 Henry IV***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Best Discovery Summary?  
 Wildcard? (not required)

### ***Henry V***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Best Discovery Summary?  
 Wildcard? (not required)

### ***Hamlet***

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Best Discovery Summary?  
 Wildcard? (not required)

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- Word Study 1  
 Word Study 2  
 Scene Study (film) 1  
 Scene Study (film) 2  
 Stage Adaptations 1  
 Stage Adaptations 2  
 Character Investigation 1  
 Character Investigation 2

- Annotated Bibliography 1  
 Annotated Bibliography 2  
 Publication History 1  
 Publication History 2  
 Bibliographic Comparison 1  
 Bibliographic Comparison 2  
 Environmental Interpretation 1  
 Environmental Interpretation 2

- Reappropriation 1  
 Reappropriation 2  
 Hobbyhorse 1  
 Hobbyhorse 2