Session 4: Modifying research questions for P1

An original question
Who are the authors of this genre? In many cases, the author is not a single person but is an organization. If this is the case, who takes responsibility for a document’s content and design? Are the members of the authoring or production team “visible” or “invisible” to readers and users of this genre?

The author question, modified
What groups can the authors of posts in the VW online discussion forum be classified into? What is the hierarchy of authority among these groups? Are there editors or members of the authoring or production team that have more control over posts than others? How much of this authority or control is visible or obvious to readers and users of this genre?

Modifying Questions
1. Grab the file containing the Genre Analysis questions.
2. Modify the content of the question to suit your genre, the situation you are researching, and your interests.
3. List information about sources of data and methods for answering each question.
Name Sources of Information

What is the hierarchy of authority among these groups?

- Forum editorial policies
- Forum “karma” rules
- Talk with members, editors
- Count posts & views

Plan methods for each source

- Forum editorial policies
- Forum “karma” rules
- Talk with members, editors
- Count posts & views

E-mail to selected group of frequent posters; phone conversation with forum moderator

Make a timeline for doing your data collection

E-mail to selected group of frequent posters; phone conversation with forum moderator

9/9 9/14

draft

9/9

Post your research plan

Your research plan consists of:
- List of modified questions
- Sources, methods for each
- Timeline

This is one of the deliverables for this project.
Modified Reading Schedule

- Read Miller “A Humanistic Rationale for Technical Communication” and Rude “The Report for Decision Making” for next Tuesday
- Also, read “How to Use PWOnline” and “The Rhetoric of Professional Writing”