Community:  
*What Can Writing Do?*

For the last two months, we’ve studied *ideas* of community. For the next 6 weeks, we are going to investigate *practices* of community. What do these academic theories look like on the ground? What does writing look like in *the community*?

We’ll be meeting regularly with community leaders in Fairbanks to hear their perspectives on these questions. Throughout this time, we’ll be working on extended research projects focused on a local concern of your choice – preferably one that connects to the community groups that we’re working with.

**THE PROCESS:**
We will have 4 micro-writing assignments to help us experiment with different forms of public writing. For each of these micro-writings, you will be responsible for crafting your own prompt/question and for responding in 500-600 words, including incorporation of at least 2 researched sources. As usual, these will be due on Mondays (11/10, 11/17, 11/24 and 12/1). All of your questions should be elaborations on a larger theme/question that is the focus of your research.

For the capstone to this project, you’ll be creating a research-based campaign targeted at a public audience. This will require you to synthesize the research you’ve been doing and choose one or multiple forms in which to present it. What is the best method of targeting your audience?

**Important Dates:**
- Class is cancelled Monday 12/1 and Wednesday 12/3 for conferences
- Required peer review sessions on Friday 12/5 and Monday 12/8
- We will have class visitors regularly on Wednesdays – don’t miss it!

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*For Friday, 11/7:*  
Reflect on the speakers we had in class on Wednesday. What did they say that interested you? What confused you? What did they say that connected to something important to you? What questions do you still have?

Write a 300-word letter in response to this discussion. You may direct the letter to the individual or the organization(s) that you think are best positioned to respond. In this letter, your purpose is to identify some inquiry that deserves further research. Ask questions, make hypotheses. Convince us that this is worth investigating. This will be the first step toward identifying your research focus for the next 6 weeks, so spend some time on it.