Homeworks 7 and 8

7. Critical evaluation of scholarly article on language and immigration, 750-1000 words
8. Critical evaluation of article in the popular press on language and immigration in Wisconsin, 500 words

These two assignments are specifically designed to be steps toward your final paper. We will spend some time in class talking about how to approach this assignment. You'll find two different articles that deal with the topic of your paper, one aimed at scholars (in a peer-reviewed journal or scholarly book) and one aimed at the general public.

The Writing Center has the most valuable guides about how to approach these assignments, that is, how to write a critical evaluation of a piece of somebody else’s writing:


The key issue is finding the right articles. The guide to how to do this below was prepared by Kevin Kurdylo (Memorial Library and the Max Kade Institute) and Nancy Mulhern (Wisconsin Historical Society).

I'll give you feedback on these assignments aimed specifically at getting you to use these articles effectively in your final paper … how to use these papers to develop original ideas or insights.

Guide to finding material: Scholarly and Popular Articles

Scholarly articles are written by experts or researchers, and the authors of an article will be identified with their organizational affiliation. Scholarly articles are published in academic journals and often are peer reviewed (assessed by other experts in the field before publication). They often use technical language / terms specific to the field of study.

Such articles usually introduce new research, including methods and findings, and often provide a critique of existing research. Scholarly articles will always have a bibliography of sources. In general, a popular article is written for the general public, and will not be peer-reviewed. The language will be less technical or specific.

Finding a Scholarly Article
Examples of Search Terms:
Immigration English language contact “United States”
or
Immigrants Wisconsin

also try adding the name of a specific ethnic group

Article Databases & Indexes
General Databases
Most will allow you to
Limit to:
☑ Peer reviewed

** Academic Search Premier (Ebsco)**
EBSCO Academic Search Premier provides full text for nearly 4,650 academic multi-disciplinary serials, including full text for more than 3,600 peer-reviewed titles.

** Humanities Full Text (Ebsco)**
Indexes English-language periodicals and journals in the humanities. Topics covered: archaeology, area studies, art, classical studies, communications, dance, film, folklore, history, journalism, linguistics, literary & social criticism literature, music, performing arts, philosophy, and religion.

Proquest Research Library
An extensive number of periodicals, covering general interest magazines and scholarly journals in the social sciences, humanities and sciences. Also included are ethnic and alternative press coverage. Full text of many articles is provided.

Subject Specific Databases

Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts (LLBA)
Abstracts of the world’s literature in linguistics and language-related research. Related disciplines such as anthropology, education, ethnology, information science, medicine, and communications are covered.

Found, for example:

International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
The IBSS indexes the information contained in over 2,600 social sciences journals and 6,000 books each year. Coverage includes both core and specialized material from over 100 countries in more than 90 languages in the fields of economics, political science, sociology and anthropology.

Found, for example:

Area Studies Databases
Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS)
Indexes more than 900 journals; books; government documents; statistical compilations; committee reports; directories; serials; reports of public, intergovernmental, and private organizations; and most other forms of printed literature from all over the world. Its subject matter covers public policy, social policy, and the social sciences in general.

2. Finding a Popular Article
Examples of Search Terms:
Immigration English language Wisconsin
Immigrants English Wisconsin
also try adding the name of a specific ethnic group
(Limits: Source type: Magazines, Newspapers; Document type: Article)
The Articles search feature on the Library home page allows you to perform a simple search across 4 general resources or you can choose Advanced Search to select a list of subject-specific databases to search. However, the majority of results will be for scholarly materials!
** Newspaper Source Plus includes 1,520 full-text newspapers, providing more than 28 million full-text articles.
NewspaperARCHIVE includes fully searchable newspaper pages from more than 400 cities and towns—from The Washington Post to the Stevens Point Gazette (see full title list). An excellent tool to research genealogy, history, culture and newsworthy events in a local context.
http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.web/newspaperarchive
Can us the “Browse by Location Map” at NewspaperARCHIVE

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: New York Times (1851-2009)

Searched: Wisconsin English language immigrants

“A CANTON IN WISCONSIN: THE THRIVING SWISS COLONY OF NEW-GLARUS. HOW IT WAS SETTLED BY A LITTLE BAND OF SWISS PEOPLE 38 YEARS AGO--ITS PROSPERITY.”
Abstract (summary)
New-Glarus is a unique Swiss Settlement in Wisconsin. It lies in Green, one of the
southernmost tier of counties, and about midway between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi. It was founded in 1845 by 108 persons.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Tribune (1849-1990)

Searched: Wisconsin English language immigrants

“An Artist's Loue Affair With America” [Note misspelling of Love]
Schwartz, William Samuel. Chicago Tribune 05 Apr 1970

“Alien Tongues' Influence on Names Used in United States Disclosed by Analysis.”

“SCHOOL LAWS DENOUNCED.: An Interesting Discussion in the German Lutheran ...”

Wisconsin Englishes: In the News and On the Air

The Cap Times, Jack Craver, August 31, 2013, "Are Today's Immigrants Really Less Inclined To Learn To Speak English?"
Try also: Cap Times Advanced Search

“Odd Wisconsin: Scholarly tradesmen enlivened Watertown in the 1850s.” Cap Times, June 05, 2013
Watertown quickly became more German than English. Irish laborers, Welsh farmers, and Yankee storekeepers learned German in order to trade with their new neighbors. “I remember even an Indian youth out on the Hustisford Rd. speaking German more fluently than English,” editor Ralph Blumenthal recalled.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Family Histories / Genealogies
Sometimes more anecdotal than factual; look for citations to primary and secondary sources. If in doubt, be sure to note that the information is unsubstantiated
Search the Library Catalog for “Family” and the town or county of interest.
Also search ArCat (Archives at Wisconsin Historical Society)
Also try searching the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies Library Catalog: http://csumc.wisc.edu/mki/mkisources/search.html
Also: Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library http://www.nagcnl.org/

Specialty Topic / For Consideration:
The Wisconsin Folksong Collection, 1937-1946, represents materials from two collections housed in three discrete but closely related repositories. The Collection
reflects and documents the state's colorful pattern of immigration and occupational
development during those years.
The Collection contains Wisconsin field recordings, notes, and photographs made by
UW-Madison faculty member Helene Stratman-Thomas as part of the Wisconsin Folk
Music Recording Project, co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin and the Library
of Congress during the summers of 1940, 1941, and 1946; and recordings collected by
song catcher Sidney Robertson Cowell during the summer of 1937 for the Special Skills
Division of the Resettlement Administration.
Also: Belgian-American Research Collection
http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/WI/BelgAmrCol