## Shared Assumptions – audio transcript

Shared assumptions. Shared assumptions is another feature of discourse communities, one of the four categories that we'll be talking about in this unit. It basically means assumptions that the speaker and the audience or the writer and the audience share about how communication should sound or look. So, for example, if you send a text message to a friend, the shared assumption is that you will use abbreviations, no caps, maybe no punctuation or very little punctuation. Compare that to turning in an essay to a teacher. The shared assumption is that you will not use abbreviations and that you will use punctuation. If you violate these assumptions, then your communication suffers. Your audience doesn't understand why or what you are communicating. Why, your friend might ask, did you Text me a five-paragraph essay. It violates the assumptions of what is clear and acceptable communication in the discourse community you share with your friend. That is pretty much shared assumptions.