

English Composition 106

Project #1: Finding a Fulcrum

<http://lever-of-archimedes.blogspot.com>

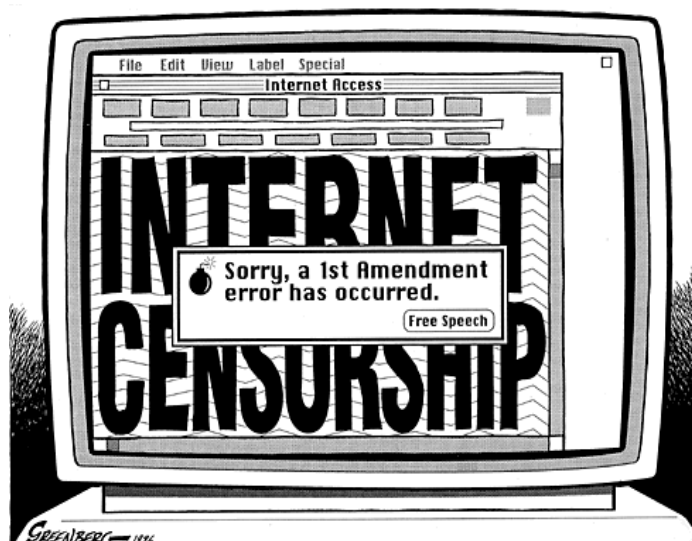
Instructor: Elizabeth Cuddy

Postings: One 1000--1350 word column (posted twice, during weeks four and six, respectively)

Comments: Participation in five separate comment threads

Final Draft Due Date: Wednesday, Sept. 30th

This assignment will involve a unique combination of collective and individual work as the members of this class become a community of bloggers. Each of you will be responsible for posting a column on the class blog. These columns will be written in response to and offer additional commentary on a recent event (or events) taking place in the news cycle (in this case, the maximum amount of time allotted for 'recent' stories will be a calendar month from the day your column is posted).



Editorials are not meant to read like academic work even though quite a bit of research may go into these pieces. When confined to newspaper format, editorialists may be able to refer readers to a source here or there, but these writers are hardly able to include a bibliography with each piece—a problem which blog-based editorialists have taken upon themselves to remedy. Thanks to the interactive platforms of Web 2.0 bloggers can use hyperlinks to connect key words within their own writing to relevant newspaper articles, websites, and videos, beautifully uniting the form and function of the World Wide Web as they connect threads of thought between sites via links. (And these connections really give the concept of intertextuality a whole new meaning!) Each column will be expected to contain this type of “bibliography” with a minimum of five reputable sources referenced in each column (although if you wish to include more than five sources or other pieces of background information you are certainly welcome to do so). Pictures, maps, cartoons, embedded videos, references to other blogs, and other people’s commentaries on these same events would also make interesting, desirable additions. Your posting should focus upon a topic in one of the following fields: the arts, the entertainment or sports industries, politics (domestic or international), a social justice movement, or advances in science and technology.

In addition to your own column you will also be expected to comment upon others’ columns and respond to the comments left by your classmates regarding their thoughts on your editorial; these comments should not be simple statements which only agree or disagree but a genuine effort to initiate and hold a conversation through the blog’s built-in comment feature. Although I am confident that the following is implicitly understood, let it be stated here and now that thoughtful, respectful, civilized discussions are expected and encouraged and that rudeness and intolerance for the opinions and beliefs of others shall not be borne—such postings will be deleted by the instructor and will affect the poster’s grade for this project.

On September 30th you will hand in the final revised version of the column—by this point the column will have experienced several critiques (once with a classmate, the online comments written by your classmates, as well as one written by your instructor) and you will also have the opportunity to discuss potential points of revisions during conferences and, of course, through the comments you will have received during the week the column was posted—as well as a proper bibliography of all the sites your columns were linked to on the blog. You will also need to include a hard copy version of your original column, a copy of the source article, the comments you responded to regarding your own columns, and the other comment threads you participated in. The grading rubric for this project is as follows:

Column = 70%

Bibliography/Formatting = 15%

Five comments (minimum) = 15%