

Field Notes #1

Following the Discourse Community Online

By ENG1302.RachelCantrell.com

Part I: Pinterest

- 1) Create a Pinterest account if you don't already have one. Then create a board for class. Email me the link to the board. Go to my Pinterest page and follow me: [Pinterest.com/ENG1302](https://www.pinterest.com/ENG1302)
- 2) Find boards about your discourse community that you can follow. If there aren't many, that's okay. You can find any image or video anywhere on the internet. See the tutorials on Pinterest (or search for one on YouTube) if you're not sure how to do this. Take screenshots of any interesting conversations in the comment sections that you see. You will use these screenshots in this and future assignments.

3) Find five artifacts to pin. When you pin an artifact you need to put "artifact #" in the pin description-number each pin. You can add screenshots that you've taken to your board as an image by clicking on the plus sign at the top of the page. When pinning an artifact type within the description box the literacy metaphor or which of the

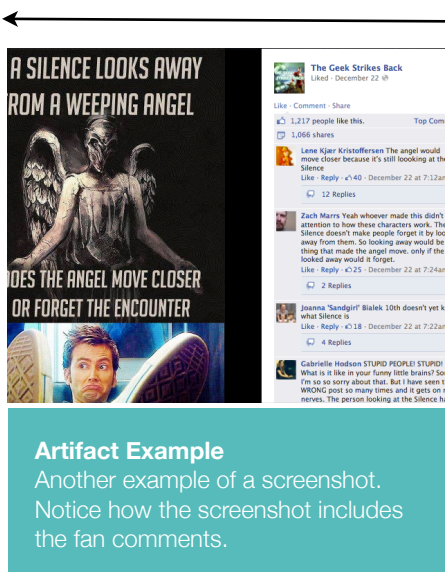
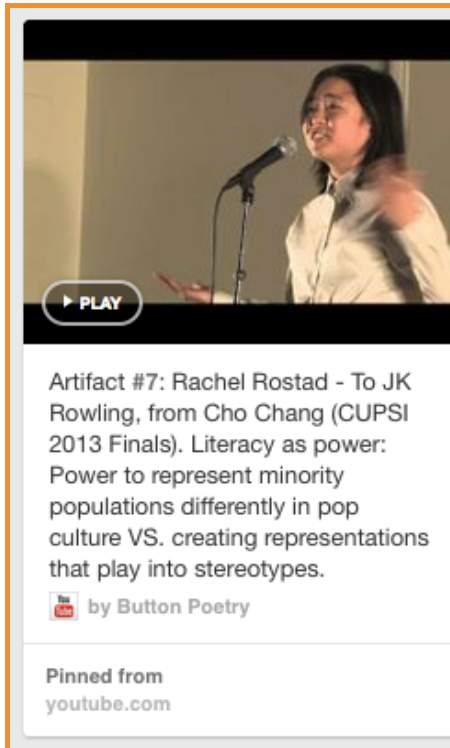
5 parts of literacy you think the pin represents.

In the description box for your pins you should identify Szwed's five elements of literacy: text (which if your fandom's book, TV series, or film or whatever text your discourse community is focused on), the context & function, the participants, and the motivation. For participants you can say how many people pinned it, how many views it had on YouTube and how many comments it had, the type

Example: In this YouTube video Rachel Rostad is performing a slam poetry piece about the racial representations within JK Rowling's Harry Potter. This could be pinned as an artifact if you were studying the fandom of one of his shows or films as an example of literacy as power.

See the class website for a video tutorial on how to find artifacts, how to pin them, and how to identify the literacy going on for your written descriptions.

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Artifact Example

Another example of a screenshot. Notice how the screenshot includes the fan comments.

Artifacts

What to Look For

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In addition to following Pinterest boards based on your chosen discourse community, you will also search the internet for other sites/communities. Examples of such sites are: message boards or chat rooms, fanfiction archives (many also have podcast of the fanfiction and a forum/message boards), online RPG (role playing games), wiki's or lexicon's dedicated to that discourse

community, Facebook groups or pages, blogs using other platforms such as Wordpress or Blogger, etc. There are also numerous YouTube channels and videos that you could follow. Netflix instant streaming has many documentaries that maybe related to your chosen discourse community that you could watch and take observation notes over for your field notes.

See the course calendar for field note due dates!

Games of Thrones Artifact #1

Source: <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/377106168769849266/>

Summary: This photo shows a child fan wearing a shirt with the phrase “I’m Not a Princess I’m a Khalessi.” Khalessi is an important character in the Game of Thrones- she is a leader, she is royalty, but she is so much more. She’s a warrior and would easily destroy any disney princess in her path. The Game of Thrones wiki (link below) defines a Khalessi as “*Khalessi* is a Dothraki title referring to the wife of the khal.” The girl in the photo is holding a dragon- The Khalessi character is the mother of dragons- she has actual dragons. So this photo shows a young fan expressing her relation to this character and has a key word in the Games of Thrones fandom lexicon. I could easily use this artifact in my ethnographic essay and final presentation.

I have added Khalessi to my lexicon.

Game of Thrones Wiki: gameofthrones.wikia.com/

An ethnography is the study of culture. We are studying the media literacy practices and events of fandoms. Their literacy artifacts are the things they create and share online. Fandom is a discourse community; it is a community of fans.

Please talk to your professor before the due date if you have any questions. See the syllabus for your instructors office hours or email address.



Field Note Instructions Recording Artifact Data

By Rachel Cantrell

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You should be pinning artifacts that illustrates your discourse community’s literacy practices. You need to be able to relate the artifact with something we’ve read about literacy in this course.

For each pin you will write type in the description box a short note about the observed literacy You should identify Scribner’s metaphors or Szwed’s five elements of literacy: text (which if your fandom’s book, TV series, or film), the context & function, the participants, and the motivation. For participants you can say how many people pinned it, how many views it had on YouTube and how many comments it had, etc. You can take

screenshots of the comment section as well to help you explain the motivation or context & function. You could refer to Brandt’s concept of a literacy sponsor. You can quote the comment section by taking a screenshot of the comment and pasting it into your notes. If you don’t know how to take a screen shot then Google it.

Relate anything you’ve read in *EIHW* to your pins within your field notes. There is a video tutorial related to these field notes on the class website. Please email your instructor if you have questions. **See the course calendar for field note due dates!**

Building Your Field Notes

What You Need to Include

By ENG1302.RachelCantrell.com

Building a Lexicon

What to Look For

While you are observing your discourse community you need to continue to build a lexicon in your field notes. With every field note assignment you should include a list of new words (and their definitions) that you've added to your lexicon.

For example, many fans have a word that they use to refer to fans of that specific fandom. For example Star Trek fans are Trekkies. Doctor Who fans are Whovians. Each fandom will have unique words that either come from the show itself or from the fan community. You will need to keep a list of these unique words. For example, for Doctor Who you would include Alyson-y, Geronimo, the Silence, and Don't Blink!

Mapping the Space

Look for Layouts & Diagrams

If there is a physical space that has significance to your discourse community then try to find an image of it that you can pin. It could be a diagram related to a video game, a circuit board for a computer, an apartment within a TV show, etc. For example, for the Big Bang Theory you can find online layout of the apartments where most of the show takes place. Another example is video games often have maps of spaces within the game on websites that give gamers tips and strategies.



image source:

http://bigbangtheory.wikia.com/wiki/Apartment_4A

Artifacts

What to Collect?

You will collect artifacts from your discourse community. You will pin these artifacts to your assigned Pinterest board- these pins are your fieldnotes. In the description area of the pin you will describe the literacy happening within the pin or that pin illustrates. What literacy practice or event is the pin an artifact of? Do you see Szwed's parts of literacy, Scribner's metaphors, or Brandt's literacy sponsorship idea?

Fanfiction

A Literacy Practice

Fanfiction is one of the primary literacy practices of fans. Find a fanfiction archive (website or blog) dedicated to your fandom. If you can't find one through a Google search then go look on fanfiction.net which is a large archive encompassing numerous fandoms. Many archives will have a list of trending stories- read these as they are getting the most hits (being read the most by other fans). See what fans are writing. Do you notice any trends? (For example is there a lot of slash fiction? Or is there a divide among fans between two different shipping pairs? (For example in the Twilight fandom you have fans divided over Bella and Edward VS. Bella and Jacob.) How do fans form communities around these archives? Is there a popular archive or did you have to go fanfiction.net? Is there a forum connected to the archive where fans communicate? Is there contest on the archive? Who are the popular authors? What do the most popular fanfics say about the fandom community? Etc. See fanfiction handout for a list of common fanfiction terminology.

Fandom Wikis

Search for Them

Another common literacy practice is creating a wiki for an online discourse community. Example: Fans build these wikis with information about the original text- basically everything you would want to know. Use Google to see if there is a wiki for your discourse community. If there is, study it for their literacy practices. What trends are you noticing? Is there a forum connected to it? Many of these wiki's are built on <http://www.wikia.com/> while others are hosted on individual websites.