First Paper 1 Due 12 Feb.

FS 102
Academic Discourse II: Virtual Pen, Virtual Paper
Spring 2016
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http://cs.allegheny.edu/sites/rroos/fs102s2016

First Paper
Due Friday, 12 February 2016
Graded (revisions permitted)

According to an article published in 2006 in the journal Libri (a scholarly journal for libraries and information services),

Blogs are—at their most overt—one person (over)-valuing the minutia of their day. As a diary for public circulation, they make the writer feel important and published, without going through the processes of refereeing, editing and proofing. They can also be—and frequently are—subjective commentaries untempered by argument, research or analysis. Most bloggers demonstrate the self-confidence of Dr Phil on steroids. Blogs are available so that the (over) Web-confident can confirm their importance.


Read the full article by going to the course Web site, visiting the “Other Resources” page, and clicking on the link to the paper.

Write a critical response to this article with particular emphasis on the practice of blogging. “Critical” does not mean “finding fault.” “To criticize” in this context simply means to carefully analyze the article, identifying its strengths and weaknesses.

More precisely, write a paper in which you:

• summarize the author’s main point(s)
• argue either in favor of or against each of these main points (particularly as they relate to blogging)
• provide credible evidence to support your arguments

You should have several “scholarly” references (we will discuss this in class) to support your arguments; these should be cited in the text and listed in a bibliography or list of references at the end.

Your paper should be about 1000 words in length (roughly 3–4 pages typeset); longer papers are certainly acceptable.

Your paper should have a title; pages should be numbered. The citations/bibliography should conform to one of the styles that we will discuss in class.
Grading Criteria

I will assign two letter grades—one for “mechanics” (spelling, grammar, style, etc.) and one for content (how well did you address the three items listed in the assignment?). I will use a weighted average of these two grades, where content will contribute about 75% and mechanics 25%.

You will be permitted to submit a revised version of the paper within one week of its return to you; the revision policy will be explained at that time.

The following checklist might be useful:

☐ Name, Honor Code at top?
☐ PDF format?
☐ Title?
☐ Numbered pages?
☐ Summary of Brabazon’s paper?
☐ Response to main points, supported by credible resources?
☐ Citations within the body of the paper?
☐ References at end?
☐ Placed in Sakai drop box by due date?