

INFO 203, Spring 2012 - Assignment 3

Due Date: Tuesday April 10th

Assignment #3 Details:

- Assignment 3 is due at the beginning of class
- Bring two stapled copies of your assignment to class
- **WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO FACILITATE BLIND GRADING**
- Papers should be double-spaced, 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman).
- Include word count at the end of each answer (you should be within 50 words of the stated word count)
- For Part I cite quotes and paraphrase arguments from the readings using parenthetical documentation according to the reader's pagination, i.e. (Ackerman, p. 24).
- For Part II please include a bibliography in a standard format* for any additional readings you cite that are not part of the course syllabus - see <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html> for format.
- **Grading criteria (as before):** you will be graded on (1) your fully answering all aspects of the questions, (2) your understanding of course readings (how you reference them in your essays) (3) the logic of your claims (4) your extension of concepts and arguments from course readings to new situations/topics

Part I (50%) – Networked Sociability (8 points). Answer both questions:

(1) Citing evidence and arguments from **two readings** (Donath, boyd, Ubois, or Bernstein et al) answer these two questions: what are the challenges to forming functional online communities when participants use pseudonyms vs. when participants are truly anonymous? What are some potential advantages to users who go by pseudonyms or maintain anonymity in online social interaction? [**~ 400 words**]

(2) Are the social practices and technological features devised to support online, volunteer communities comparable to traditional, co-located workplaces? Answer this question by analyzing one of the technological features supporting online communities presented in Kriplean et al., Lampe and Resnick, or Geiger and Ribes. Explain: (a) what social activity is supported by the design of that feature, (b) a comparable practice which takes place in co-located workplaces, and (c) how that practice is similar or different in co-located workplaces versus online communities. [**~ 400 words**]

Part II (50%) – Final Paper Topic (7 points)

1. Write the first paragraph for your final paper. Include a **strong thesis statement** that indicates **what you intend to argue** in your paper. This should be based on your reading of **existing published work** rather than requiring novel empirical research. [**~ 300 words**]

2. **an updated literature search** in your topic area(s) to identify research that you will draw upon to explain, justify, and support your arguments. **Choose at least 6 key readings (that are NOT on the class syllabus). For each reading provide its citation, and in a few sentences explain why you expect the paper to be relevant to your topic, and how you may use it in your arguments.** Your readings may include various kinds of literature, but the bulk of your research

should come from academic sources, including books, conference papers and journal articles. You should have read/skimmed through them enough to evaluate in some detail why they may be relevant and how you may use them. Your response should be approximately 1.5 – 2 pages.

3. a rough sentence outline of your paper (recalling our in-class exercise). Be as specific as you can be in formulating your justifications and arguments in outline form. The focus of your outline may not necessarily be about what you will ultimately conclude in your paper, but what issues you will address, and what sections will need to be in your paper to accomplish your goal. Your outline should be approximately 1 page, and take the following general form:

(taken from http://www.sthelens.k12.or.us/174320825162539897/lib/174320825162539897/Essay_Outline_Sample.htm)

Introduction

State the thesis, the causes and effects to be discussed; comparison of subject X and subject Y; your position on the issue; your proposal if applicable; and the main points that will develop your argument.

Body

First Point, Assertion, Explanation

Supporting evidence (examples, facts, statistics, quoted authorities, details, reasons, examples)

Supporting evidence

Second explanation

Support

Support

Third explanation (continue as above with additional explanations as needed.)

Support

Support

Your proposal (if applicable)

Address opposing viewpoints

Conclusion

Show how explanations (causes) are logical reasons producing the effects discussed; review subject X and subject Y; reiterate your assertion and proposition (if applicable). Reemphasize your thesis in a fresh way, showing how you have achieved your purpose. If you intend to draw to a conclusion about one subject over the other, emphasize that point.

Deal with opposing views unless done above.

Appeal to the reader to see how you have come to a logical conclusion.

Make a memorable final statement.