ENG210-27

3/4/21

Group Source Assignment

**Due Tuesday, March 9 (note—next class)**: Present in Zoom class, and submit brief write-up in Canvas. The write-up can be individual.

The original purpose of this assignment was to find two texts (books, chapters, research papers, or significant journalistic articles) that could serve as useful scaffolding for anyone’s research essay. An example would be Clay Shirky’s *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organizations*, or Nicholas Carr’s *The Shallows*. However, you can go ahead and find two sources that focus on your content area if you’ve already picked a topic area to focus on. It would be helpful if the two sources may be able to be used in some way beyond that content area. The main task of the groups is to see whether these sources have some general applicability for the class, but also to get you to hear how and what some other students are doing. Often the sources will be useful to others because several of you are working on similar topics.

*Method*: Use the instruction from our library visit to find significant works about the Internet. You might even go back to theories of communication and how the Internet exemplifies or extends earlier theories of communication or media. Use some of the tips in Chapter 6 of *Who Says?* At this point, general reference works such as encyclopedias or subject guides such as Wikipedia may be useful for finding these sources.

Each person must submit a bibliography (APA citation format) of two sources in Canvas March 9. Each source should include a brief (one- or two- paragraph) summary of the source, that you write, noting its strengths, and how it might hypothetically connect to your research paper’s claim. Also include a sentence or two explaining the ethos of the author(s) (*see example* *on following page*)—in effect *what* is in it, *how* you will use it, and *who* wrote it.

You will present your findings in class next Tuesday. Each group member should be prepared to talk about their two sources in class, and the group as a whole should plan to talk about their assessment of the group’s sources. We will have some time in class today to meet and go over (review) what each member is researching and how they might complement each other (or not) before you present—in other words, you can do some of your group work then.

Groups:

1 2 3 4 5 6

Joseph Caitlin Fabby Naim Andrew Fairuz

Khalil Saran Talliah Divine Clara Gavin

Connor Sal Eunice Miguel Maya Caleb

Sample Source:

Downing, J. (2001). *Rebellious Communication and Social Movements*. [eBook Collection EBSCOhost]. Retrieved from http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer.

This extensive academic work includes chapters on all forms of media from more than 50 countries. Its strengths include attention to the personal stories of those who help set up alternative media, stories told through in-depth ethnographic research and case studies. It could help make the claim that group formation through the Internet was not the first time grass-roots activists discovered that anyone can make a difference. This, in turn supports the notion that the Internet, while a significant social force, extends incrementally, rather then re-invents wholly, our natural social processes.

John Downing holds a Ph. D. from the London School of Economics, and was most recently professor emeritus of international communication at Southern Illinois University where he founded the Global Media Research Center.