

Day 5: T Aug 28

Reading: Miller and Schlachte, "Using What You Know and Finding What You Don't: The Rhetorical Canons and the Writing Process" (Ch. 3), Giles, "Internet Encyclopaedias Go Head to Head" [2005], McHenry, "The Faith-Based Encyclopedia" [2004]

Due: Discussion Board #3

In class: How reliable is Wikipedia, anyway?

1. Reading Quiz (5 minutes)
 - Just two questions this time:
 - 1. Pick any one of the five rhetorical canons and define how it fits into the writing process.
 - 2. According to the 2005 comparative study conducted by *Nature*, how did the accuracy of science articles on Wikipedia compare to the more traditional *Encyclopaedia Britannica*?
 - 2. Rhetorical Genre, cont. (8 minutes)
 - Scene, situation, and genre
 - First, recap “scene” and “situation”
 - How do genres fit into these?
 - What are genres?
 - Genres as structures; genre expectations; genre rules
 - Genres as *guides*—genre expectations can dictate choices made
 - 3. Practicing Genre Analysis with Wikipedia Activity (20 minutes)
 - I want you to start thinking of Wikipedia through a genre lens
 - One way to do this is to think of Wikipedia as an encyclopedia.
 - Wikipedia vs. Credo Reference – different kinds of encyclopedias, one open source, one not, supported by different organizations, etc.
 - Pick a topic. Look up the Wikipedia page on that topic, and the Credo Reference page on that topic. I want you to compare:
 - What information they include
 - How they organize that information
 - The language (including vocabulary, sentence structure, and paragraphing) used to describe the topic
 - Any media used to present the information—images, audio, video?
 - Citations and/or links: how many are they? What's referenced?
 - Figure these things out, and then we'll check in.
 - 4. Wikipedia Reliability Discussion (10 minutes)
 - How reliable is Wikipedia? How reliable are our readings about its accuracy? Whose opinions do we trust and why? How does the datedness of these articles affect our reading of them?
 - 5. Writing Groups + Peer Review Instructions (30 minutes)
 - First, everybody gets an index card. Write down the answers to these questions:
 - How far in advance do I like to get started on major assignments?
 - What time of day do I do my best work?

- Would I rather do my work in one big session or spread it out?
 - The greatest strength of my writing is...
 - The biggest growth area for my writing is...
 - Speed dating: talk to every person in class for precisely one minute. Get their name and the answers to their questions.
 - Now, we're joining in groups. I need 4x groups of 4 and 2x groups of 3.
 - These will be your writing groups for the whole semester, so choose wisely.
 - Provide peer review instructions to the groups
 - For Thurs., you will begin reviewing each other's work, w/in groups
6. Reminders for Thursday (2 minutes)
- Please post the beginnings of a draft of your Wikipedia Genre Analysis on our course Wiki.
 - For Thursday, each person in your group should complete 2 peer reviews of each other.
 - Use the Course Wiki functionality for this: mark up their pages, provide comments on their pages.
 - Please read Dolve in *RACW* (Ch. 20) and Kulwin's interview w/Katherine Maher