

Project Three

******To be included in your ePortfolio*

Assignment Background: In *Fieldworking* (p. 141-155), the authors challenge what we mean by space as a physical place and ask us to consider how online spaces can be a productive fieldsite for research, because online spaces are both a forum for insider conversations and an archive of those exchanges.

The Assignment: For the third assignment, you will extend your research to online environments. To complete this project, locate a particular online space, an ongoing online conversation, or an online representation of the culture you are studying. Then, select texts, images, and/or exchanges that are representative of your findings. The kinds of texts you select could be any number of genres and could come from any number of platforms: tweets, images posted to social media sites, discussion boards, or something more professional like a carefully crafted online presence. Remember, this data is like any other kind of research, and could very well become an integral part of your research paper.

What I am looking for: I am looking two texts: your selection of artifacts and a reflection.

Artifacts

You can collect or record your artifacts any number of ways. The two ways I am familiar with are screen shots and Storify. Like project two, the arrangement of your artifacts can do much for your thinking, so do arrange your artifacts in a meaningful way. That might mean arranging your notes based on year, the site where you collected your notes, or the day on which you found a particular artifact. You might also try a different kind of arrangement strategy: by connections to previous project, (deductively) by moving from the larger culture to specific members or (inductively) moving from specific members to a larger culture.

Above all, the key to arranging your notes is making sure you can make sense of them one and a half months from now.

Reflection

For the second part of the project, I am looking for one page single-spaced that documents what you learned through your observations. Here are some questions to help you think about what you learned through your observations: *What did you learn about a particular culture and/or multiple cultures? What did you learn about a particular place and/or multiple places? What did you learn about FSU generally? What did you learn about the relationships between place and culture? Between cultures and its members? What did you learn by looking online that you could not learn through face-to-face research?* You may also use this document as a way to generate questions or ideas that you might address in your research paper or in another section of the research ePortfolio.

If it were my project: I would go to Twitter first. I would look for hashtags or users whose online activities complement my questions and previous observations. If I found something, I would go to Storify and start compiling useful Tweets. Then, I would do the same for Instagram, for Flickr, and for YouTube. Next, I might check Reddit and Tumblr.