
Writer's Statement for "The Texts of Online Magic: Revealed"

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Ever since I was a young child, magic and illusion always seemed to intrigue me most. As a young magician, I began to teach myself in the ways of illusion and the magical arts. However, I existed in a social vacuum in the trade because I did not associate with any other magicians. Not long before I wrote this paper, I joined the magician's group that it analyzes. Observing these magicians interact with each other online was a new and unique experience to me, one that had piqued my interest. It came as no surprise to me when I decided to analyze this community of magicians in my research article during my ENC 1101 course with Professor Ringfield.

Researching an area that I was passionately involved in proved more difficult than I could've imagined. Objectivity and an unbiased approach were hard to maintain as I was already embedded into the community. To stay focused on the textual aspects of my discourse community and to discuss claims strictly grounded in my primary research was harder than I had imagined. It was so easy to become sidetracked in researching something so intriguing to me. I often found myself responding to other magicians in the group and discussing things unrelated to my paper.

The assignment was to perform research into a community of choice regarding the textual practices of that system. Aside from practicing writing a paper, this assignment also helped me to get comfortable applying scholarly sources in my writing, performing structured research, and understanding literacy in discourse communities. I had never created a paper of this size and effort before, but I was excited to take it on. In order to create this research paper, primary research as well as secondary research was completed to make claims about my discourse community. Primary research done was in the form of textual analysis and secondary research was comprised of scholarly research in the areas of activity and discourse theory. The interaction between this primary and secondary research is the core of the research paper and generated most of the claims made in the text. During the writing process, the feedback I received while writing this paper was instrumental in shaping the final product. Advice from Professor Ringfield helped me see my own work critically and improve many areas of the paper. I began to understand the genre of a research paper and how to write one. The realization that a research paper doesn't aim to prove an absolute truth, but rather to contribute to an ongoing search for truth was a threshold concept that opened the door for me in terms of writing. Professor Ringfield's feedback was invaluable. In addition to this, multiple peer review partners gave me access to additional audience points-of-view that helped me better my paper. Different pieces of praise and criticism from both instructor and students helped me to refine my paper into something I was proud to have written.