



a journal of first-year writing

Work Habits: A Self Study

EMILEIGH WRIGHT

**“Switch Off” before You
Doze Off: Exploring the
Effects of Late Night
Media Use on the Sleep
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**“Spanglish” and Its Effects
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MICHAEL NGUYEN

Knights Write Showcase Special Issue | Spring 2013

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From the Guest Editor

On Monday, January 28, 2013, UCF's Department of Writing and Rhetoric hosted the 3rd Annual Knights Wright Showcase, a venue for students to present, orally and visually, the work they produced in their first-year writing classes. The students who participate are not only recognized university-wide for their achievement—some personally by President Hitt—they also have the experience available to put on a résumé and application for graduate school.

The students who end up presenting are selected from a large pool of essay submissions. For some of the projects in this issue, the students started with a great idea that they worked with for an entire semester; for others, their idea started out in more general terms and was cultivated along the way into something unique and special. In every case, the final materials submitted exemplify exceptional writing and research skills.

The essays in this issue are from the 3rd Annual Knights Write Showcase panelists. The first three essays you'll read are from the first student panel: "Work Habits, Speaking Habits, and Creative Freedom: Studying Oral and Written Language."

In Emileigh Wright's essay, "Work Habits: A Self Study," you'll see how spending even a little time looking at your own writing process can reveal how outside factors—location and day of the week, time of day, the surrounding you're in—have the potential to play a significant role in the quality of writing you produce. This essay is packed with interesting and relevant information for anyone who writes essays for a class.

Nicole Minnis' essay, "'Switch Off' before You Doze Off: Exploring the Effects of Late Night Media Use on the Sleep Habits of College Freshman at UCF," looks at some of the effects late night media use has on UCF freshmen. Instead of surveying students around campus (a popular choice for many ENC1102 students), Minnis chose to conduct her study on a focus group of five people and conduct a case study on herself. After reading her essay, you may want to reassess your own use of social media, especially during those late night hours.

The third panelist in the Showcase, Camila Perez, presented her essay, "'Spanglish' and Its Effects on L1 and L2." Perez excelled by not only understanding the conversation she studied of code-switching between two languages, but also entered it with a unique claim on the topic. If you or anyone you know speaks more than one language, this essay might be of interest to you.

After a short break, the second Showcase panel of the day, "Studying Language and Genre in Our Lives," took the stage. It was made up of four participants, each with a distinctive contribution to the topic.

Richie Hartig's essay, "Combating Internet Piracy: Is the Cost Too Great?" explores the problem of internet piracy and legislation on the issue. As you read, consider how Hartig not only reveals several sides of this dispute, but also goes a step further by offering a potential solution that affects many people.

Amanda Inman took a different approach to her writing and researching project, "Now is the Time to Unmask," by creating a website to present her research. Inman's claim is that people's self-esteem and identity are altered when they present themselves in an online environment. As you explore the site, compare the writing and research done there to how a typical paper would look. Take note of what was included and what might have changed because of the genre the information was presented in.

In B. Moe` Corbett's study, "Rhetorical Treasure Hunting: Geocaching and the Usage of Multiple Literacies," the author took her hobby of geocaching and turned it into a research project for her ENC1102 class. Corbett claims that the activity of geocaching is both a literacy unto itself while at the same time is comprised of many other literacies genres. This essay might give you ideas about just what types of literacies are involved with your own hobbies.

Michael Nguyen's essay, "Hang 'Em High and Bury 'Em Deep: Thematic Connections between Western and Zombie Fiction," explores the zombie metaphor and how it underlies the popularity and the definition of the genre itself. He then compares various popular zombie movies to the genre of Westerns. If you are a fan of zombie movies or movies in general, you might find the methods in this essay a stepping stone into the many ways a genre can be analyzed.

Like many students, you may be currently enrolled in an ENC1101 or 1102 class where you're asking yourself: just what is it that makes up good writing and research? The essays in this issue will go a long way to modeling the answers to that question. Pay special attention to the various methods the students used to collect and analyze their data, as well as to how they each entered the conversations they studied. These contributions further demonstrate how students can successfully merge their own likes and interests with the requirements handed to them in their respective classes.

If you are wondering what it would be like to present your own work to the university, you can watch videos of the panels by visiting the Knights Write Showcase website at: <http://writingandrhetoric.cah.ucf.edu/showcase.php>.

We hope you find this issue informative and useful. Enjoy!

-Adele Richardson
Knights Write Showcase Coordinator