



a journal of first-year writing

**Tug of War: The Writing Process of
a Bilingual Writer and His
Struggles**

ALCIR SANTOS NETO

**Preparing to Be a Doctor in High
School: A Study in
Underrepresented Pre-Medical
Students' Gains from Advanced
Placement (AP) Courses**

SARA BOLIVAR WAGERS

**I Dare You to Become a Teacher:
How Society Has Created a
Negative Image of the Teaching
Profession**

YUDEYSIS CORES

**The Role of Gender on Social
Network Websites**

JIMMY PALMER

The Disinhibition of Reddit Users

TIFFANY GAGNON

**Getting Level 99 in Research: What
Lies beneath the Online Mask in
RuneScape**

GABRIELLE CASEY

**Rap Literacy: Its Devolution and a
Means for Revival**

ARELYS ZAMORA

**Kids These Days: An Analysis of the
Rhetoric against Youth across Five
Generations**

JESSICA KITT

**Where's the Beef? Communicating
Vegetarianism in Mainstream
America**

ALLISON WALTER

**The Effects of Internalized
Oppression on the Black
Community**

CORRIN PINKNEY

Knights Write Showcase Special Issue | Spring 2014

The Journal of the First-Year Writing Program
at the University of Central Florida

Editors

Adele Richardson, Guest Editor
Matthew Bryan, *Stylus* Editor

Knights Write Showcase Panel Selection Committee

Amy Barnickel
Steve Ethridge
Luann Henken
John King
Scott Launier

Joseph Longhany
Bob Mohrenne
Lindee Owens
Stacey Pigg
Adele Richardson, Chair
Melissa Ringfield
Nichole Stack
Jennifer Taylor
Leslie Wolcott
Thomas Wright

From the Guest Editor

On January 29, 2014, UCF's Department of Writing and Rhetoric will host the 4th Annual Knights Write Showcase in the Pegasus Ballroom of the Student Union, where students present orally and visually, the work they produced in their first-year writing classes.

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 presented in this issue are selections from the 4th Annual Knights Write Showcase panelists. The first of the three panels I'll be discussing is titled: Perspectives of Language and Learning. Here, four students offer their point of views on the topic.

In Alcir Santos Neto's essay, "Tug of War: The Writing Process of a Bilingual Writer and His Struggles," the author examines his own writing process, focusing on the struggles of a bilingual writer. Santos Neto considers the impact of translating back and forth between Portuguese and English as he writes along with the disruptions such movement causes. Ultimately, he argues that by understanding his own process, he's better able to control it and adapt it to the different situations he faces. If you are, or if you know someone who is, bilingual, this essay will not only resonate with you, but also offer insight to issues with translation and writing.

Sara Bolivar Wagers wrote, "Preparing to Be a Doctor in High School: A Study in Underrepresented Pre-Medical Students' Gains from Advanced Placement (AP) Courses," in her ENC 1102 class. In it, she researches whether or not Biology and Chemistry Advanced Placement courses have prepared underrepresented pre-medical track students to be successful in similar science-related college courses, if these courses provided students retainable knowledge that they brought to college, and some of the benefits the students gained to increase their success in college from enrolling in AP courses. This essay contains many thought-provoking questions regarding the benefits of AP classes that you may have taken yourself.

The final student from this panel represented here is Yudeysis Cores, who wrote the essay, "I Dare You to Become a Teacher: How Society Has Created a Negative Image of the Teaching Profession." Cores explains how society has created a negative image of the teaching profession and what this effect indicates for the future of the country. She identifies four areas rarely discussed in

the academic conversation that deal with this issue and offers potential solutions to the noted topics. While you might not be going into a profession for which society has created a negative image, that doesn't mean attitudes can't change. What would you do if your chosen profession evolved to an even slightly maligned one in society's eyes?

The second panel, Social Networks, Social Masks, and Popular Music, is also made up of four students who offer fresh perspectives on the topics of social media and modern entertainment.

In Jimmy Palmer's essay, "The Role of Gender on Social Network Websites," the author explains the kinds of gender-marked language and attitudes on social network websites in comparison to other electronic forms of communication. After analyzing language use on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, he claims that users—especially teenagers—will be more inclined to present themselves in a way where they hold themselves above who they really are. Consider your own communication on social network sites as you read this. Do you present yourself in any way that Palmer's research revealed?

Tiffany Gagnon also looked at social media—specifically, Reddit—in her research essay, "The Disinhibition of Reddit Users." Here, Gagnon studies the disinhibition of users within the popular social media website. She notes how online interaction pushes people into a rhetorical situation unlike any other, and how Reddit, in particular, illuminates the ability of the human mind to adapt and create fluctuating identities, for good or bad, dependent on context and experience. Reading this essay alongside Palmer's should be very revealing about user behaviors while on these popular sites.

The next essay, written by Gabrielle Casey, is titled: "Getting Level 99 in Research: What Lies beneath the Online Mask in RuneScape." This author examines how individuals are using the online mask and its ability to lower inhibitions in the ways they interact. Casey notes its relevance to identity creation and manipulation in RuneScape and what the mask enables players to do within the game. She looks at players' motivation, expression and experimentation, and the potential overlap between the online and the real worlds. This essay should be of interest to those who frequent any online gaming site. As you read, note the similarities between how you present yourself in an online game versus social media sites.

The fourth presenter on this panel is Arelys Zamora, who created the video: "Rap Literacy: Its Devolution and a Means for Revival." In this video, Zamora addresses the history of Rap and Hip Hop, from artistic roots to current status as a multi-billion dollar industry. She traces the movement of the messages from hope and inspiration to misogyny, violence, and drug use. Zamora claims a revival of rap with positive messages is possible, pointing to a few new artists and their messages. While you watch this video, consider how the contents would have been presented differently if it were entirely in essay form.

The final student panel is titled Language and Rhetoric in Communities. The three authors whose work is presented here contribute to mainstream conversations that many people will find relevant in their own lives.

The first essay from this panel is by Jessica Kitt and is sure to resonate with people of all ages. In "Kids These Days: An Analysis of the Rhetoric against Youth across Five Generations," Kitt analyzes the negative rhetoric aimed at the youths of the day across five generations. After evaluating newspaper articles and headlines spanning the 20th century, she claims that such rhetoric is cyclical and in fact that every generation has had older adults accusing the younger of being lazy and/or the beginning of the downfall of society.

In the next essay of this panel, "Where's the Beef? Communicating Vegetarianism in Mainstream America," Allison Walter explores the attitudes and experiences surrounding the topic of vegetarianism in today's society. She examines the pressures of society, culture, and family traditions one faces if adopting this lifestyle. As you read, note how Walter expertly weaves her case studies into her discussion to support her claims.

The final project is by Corrin Pinkney, titled: "The Effects of Internalized Oppression on the Black Community." In it, Pinkney discusses the intra-racial color discrimination controversy within the black community. She claims the discrimination occurs in the form of the dark-skinned spurning the light-skinned for not being "black enough," and that this internalized oppression is a barrier to progression in the black community and the human race as a whole. Her research aims to raise awareness among all races about this internalized oppression and what it has done to the black community. Additionally interesting in this piece is the amount of background work the author did before interviewing people.

Like many students currently enrolled at UCF, you may be wondering how to tackle your own projects, big or small. The essays in this issue are excellent models of analysis and data collection. It may help you to pay attention to how the authors collected data to help answer their questions, as well as how each uniquely entered a conversation they already had a personal interest in. Join us at the Showcase in January to see how the authors adjust their material for a different audience and genre of presenting.

If you would like to watch videos of the 2013 panelists, you can visit the Knights Write Showcase website at: <http://writingandrhetoric.cah.ucf.edu/showcase.php>

Enjoy!

Adele Richardson,
Knights Write Showcase Coordinator