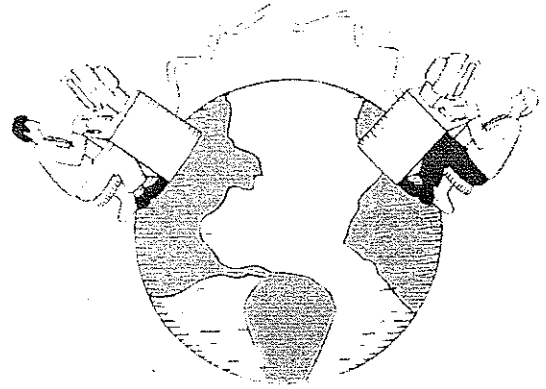


11/5/12

Peter Kunze

Web Resources for the Composition Classroom



- *The Shining* Recut: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6s40Q6ODSI8>
YouTube has a variety of recut film trailers. Not only do they offer comic relief, but they also provide us with an opportunity to discuss how a writer creates tone and how genre operates (in terms of audience, iconography, conventions, etc.) Notable examples include *The Shining*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Forrest Gump*.
- *I Am Better Than Your Kids* <http://www.thebestpageintheuniverse.net/c.cgi?u=irule>
This website features terse critiques of children's art projects, and creates some laughs before opening up a discussion of proper response techniques to students' writing. Warning: the language is a bit harsh, so decide if it works with the atmosphere you've created in your class. A great supplemental reading on responding to peers' work is Richard Straub's essay "Responding—Really Responding—to Others Students' Writing," available at <http://www.digitalparlor.org/osddp/files/issues/straub.pdf>
- *The 30-Second Bunny Theater* <http://www.angryalien.com/>
An issue many students grapple with is narrowing down their paper topic, so discussing scope is an important concern we often have to address in our classroom. This website provides parodies of popular movies to show how too much content can undermine plot and exposition. These can also be used to accompany the "Exploding a Moment" exercise I will discuss below.
- Prezi <http://prezi.com/>
PowerPoint is wonderful, and it certainly still has value, but Prezi is rethinking the way we present information in digital spaces. Its easy-to-use format, animation, and non-linear arrangement offers a creative way for students to present their work. One sample assignment might include having groups of students make presentations about key lessons in ENGL 1001 or for the steps of the research paper.
- Wix <http://www.wix.com/>
Composition studies over the past 15 years has moved more and more towards multimodal composition in the classroom. In lieu of final presentations that rely on PowerPoint (or Prezi), websites may be another way to go. This user-friendly site allows students to click and draft, copy and paste, arrange and rearrange, rather than using HTML or XML coding. It could serve as a great space for presenting a radical revision of a research paper, for example.
- FSU Inkwell <http://wr.english.fsu.edu/First-Year-Composition/The-Inkwell>
This website offers a range of activities for use in ENGL 1001 and ENGL 2000, which FSU refers to as ENC 1101 and ENC 1102, respectively. (Note: FSU employs an expressivist approach to composition pedagogy, so some of these activities may be less analytical than you might like.) From ice breakers to dialogue to genre, these activities will help get your class working as a community and honing their authorial voices. Recommended exercises: Exploding a Moment; Play It Again, Sam; Why Don't You Tell Me How You Really Feel?