

CMS.998/CMS.600: New Media Literacies
Dr. Alice Robison
Lecture Notes

Session 10, 3/12/07

Discussion of Learning Week-
Assessment-

-it was hard for the people doing the lesson plans to figure out how to teach the skills that came naturally to them

-it was like bringing people into (Gee's) Discourse of that particular media, the Discourse of forum users, photoshop users.

Discussion of Gee's Discourses-

-Gee is moving away from the psychological/cognitive view of literacy, which discounts people's socioeconomic backgrounds (discounts students who didn't grow up in a particular Discourse which privileges certain values)

-Gee comes from a background (lower/middle-class) which has made him aware of this issue and he is motivated by a desire for social action/justice.

-Gee's language in the paper - he uses the term "mushfake," also shows his desire to use common, low terms in order to keep it still accessible to regular people, not just academics.

-Gee discusses a Primary and Secondary Discourse.

-What defines a primary discourse? is it just that we grew up with it? Our family and upbringing? what about when people have not grown up in a single discourse (orphans, etc.)? What about people who have grown up in other people's Secondary Discourses (like children with parents heavily involved in fan communities, etc.)

-Secondary Discourses might include our online communities, or something to do with technology?

-Maybe instead of a just a strict distinct primary and secondary Discourse, it's more of- the discourses are nested or embedded within each other.

-(question- some people, like the band "Beat Happening," enter a Discourse, punk rock, even though they weren't a part of it themselves, they didn't know how to play instruments), answer- though they didn't have the skills, they were still a part of the Discourse, literacy is not just a set of skills (according to Gee's Discourse discussion), it's the entire surround of that particular culture -it's skills vs. "ways of being"

- things to think about in terms of this Discourse
 - acknowledgment of Discourse is not the same thing as being in it?
 - fluency of Discourse v. understanding of Discourse
 - who determines the codes and rules of behavior of a particular Discourse?
 - how people get apprenticed into certain Discourses (newbes in punk rock scene, for example)