RHETORIC REDUX

Revisting media literacy

Examining the use of new media in the paperless classroom

Historical overview

Some current practices

Future projects

Historical Overview

Rhetoric predates but was popularized by Aristotle: as the art of persuasive public speaking. A. discussed the topos (Eng. topic, as in topic sentence) of rhetoric, the meeting places of interlocutors ([mnemonic method of loci](#))

Rhetoric is art of discourse wikipedia

Rhetorical patterns are those genres of writing we learn: process, definition, comparison/contrast, cause/effect etc.

Historical overview (stop already!)

Hypertext to CMS: Tim Berners Lee, Marc Andreessen, Matt Mullenweg callenged the linearity of print culture and fostered a new era of open source sharing-an   information wants to be free culture

Arguably in this new paradigm, information sharing instead of subtle persuasion has become the rhetorical imperative

Some current practices

Class are all alternatives]

Aside from the ecological incentives, the paperless classroom provides, to varying degrees, a public forum that fosters attention to detail and pride in publishing and encourages peer review. It also gives the teacher one-to-one contact with the student
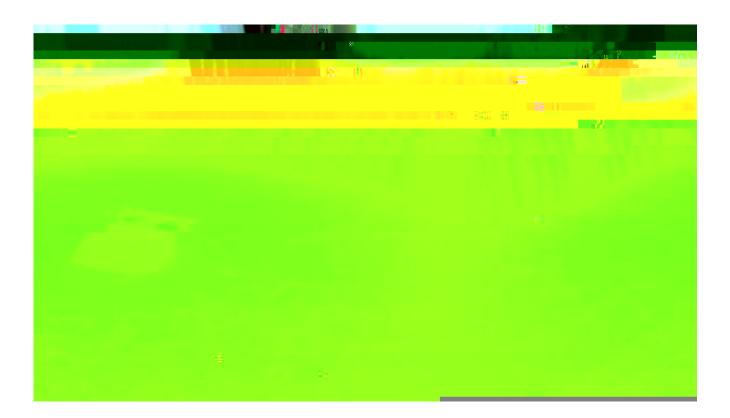
The paperless classroom creates an archive which is an invaluable teaching facility (no more filing cabinets and lost work)

Some current practices

A few of my course websites:

Some current practices (almost finished, I promise)

Case Study, DawsonMediaNight

Future projects

The Dawson

This semester I am enlisting students to create on online help center to give technical advice to their peers as well as to

Implications

A paradigm shifter? Teacher, rather than being sage on the stage, is a guide on the side (or coach if one prefers sports metaphors)

Way more efficient, teacher doesn t answer same question, over and over. Rather students learn by teaching each other

Students take ownership of their own learning and, in a sense, their own future

Problems? You must generate traffic on a community site, so it s a reflexive task. Students must figure this out, but this is also a form of media literacy online