Name: Jennifer Falcon

Student ID: 80431835

Program: Rhetoric and Writing Studies

Email: jfalcon3@ utep.edu

Title of Presentation: “The Digital Self-Reflection: Metacognitive Practices through Multimodality.”

Conference: South Central Modern Language Association

Dates: 10/30 – 11/3

Location: Nashville, TN

**Professional and Educational**

The South Central Modern Language Association includes the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. The SCMLA annual conference will be in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference will have two panels, on two separate days addressing the issue of technology in the classroom. The technology panels will address practical experience-based applications, in addition to theory, pedagogy and other issues that instructors may encounter when including technology in the classroom. The SCMLA has a long history of inviting new and established scholars to join in promoting language and literary study.

This is an area of interest as a potential dissertation topic for me. I actively use Tumblr in my RWS 1302 classes. The practices that can take place on Tumblr can help develop students’ multiliteracies, and introduces them to visual and digital rhetoric, in addition to using a course blog to build an online community where students can discuss assignments. This reliance on visual communication allows for continued discussion of visual rhetoric throughout the semester. To showcase how this works I will provide information on an assignment that makes use of the affordances allowed by incorporating this social media network in the classroom.

As an undergraduate writing instructor, it is invaluable to have these discussions in order to pursue different pedagogical practices to apply in our classrooms. This opportunity will allow for me to present my work, explore important concepts related to RWS, and to learn from other emerging and prominent scholars in the field.  In addition to focusing on the practice and process students employ during the creation of multimodal assignments, we are collaborating, as colleagues, to enhance students’ understanding of the RWS discourse community. I will continue applying the current pedagogical practices in the classrooms.

I believe this paper has the potential to be published in technoculture, an online journal that focuses on the study of technology in society, or Kairos. I feel that this practice of using Tumblr for specific assignments when combined with interface theory, and actor-network theory can elevate this paper to do more than discuss pedagogy. My goal is to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

**Final Travel Costs**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Cost | Notes | Total Requested |
| Flight | $522.63  | · Depart October 30th: El Paso, TX to San Antonio TX,San Antonio, TXto Nashville, TN· Return November 3rd:  Nashville, TN to Houston, TX  Houston, TX to El Paso, TX   | $522.63 |
| Hotel | $117/night | Holiday Inn Nashville This amount has changed from $152/night to $117. I was able to find a cheaper rate than the one offered to those attending the conference.  | $468.00 |
| Conference Registration | $70 | Not requesting this amount. | $0.00 |
| Per Diem | $59/day | Not requesting this amount. | $0.00 |
| Total  |  |  | $ 990.63 |

From October 31 – November 3rd I attended the 72nd SCMLA conference. During which time I attended panels on Technical Writing, Rhetoric, and Technology in the Classroom. The Technical Writing panel proved to be incredibly interesting. One presentation focused on the rhetorical choices of space, and how the space we inhabit influences our writing. This, I felt, could help my approach to how I move within the classroom, and think about how the setup of UGLC may or may not influence the work my students do there. On November 2nd and 3rd I attended the Technology in the Classroom panel, which covered topics ranging from commenting on student papers via video, the role of control (command) F in Word, and multimodal assignments, such as students composing memes and explaining their rhetorical choices.

I presented on November 3rd for roughly 20 minutes, with a brief question and answer session at the conclusion. The feedback was incredibly positive, and during the question and answer portion of our presentation I was able to discuss in more detail some of the benefits and drawbacks to the self-reflective multimodal assignment. I was able to address how the assignment can help students improve their study skills, and create an ongoing conversation about their rhetorical choices with their classmates and instructor. I also had an opportunity to discuss tumblr, the microblogging multimedia social network site, and the affordances of using it in the classroom for other assignments outside of the multimodal reflection I teach.

Overall, it was a wonderful conference to attend, and allowed for me to sit in on presentations that address the continued benefits of continued incorporation of technology, aspects of technical writing that I have not yet addressed in my own work, and instructor feedback.