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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

**Travel Proposal.**

This proposal seeks travel funding, including airfare and hotel, to Nashville, Tennessee to attend and present at 72nd annual South Central Modern Language Association Conference. The title of the presentation is “The Digital Self-Reflection: Metacognitive Practices through Multimodality.”

This presentation is a part of the Technology in the Classroom session. As part of the panel I will read my paper on the use of Tumblr in the writing classroom. Specifically this paper will briefly address the benefits of using Tumblr to and specific assignments that will help students develop multiliteracies, and improve their own writing practices. The other members of the panel will add to this discussion, and present their ideas on how to continue using technology in the writing classroom. My paper will focus on the practice of students composing memes, and gifs that provides students agency to apply rhetorical choices to express their thought process.

This is specifically important to my work as an instructor at UTEP. In RWS 1301, and 1302 we address issues of multimodal compositions in several assignments. This is not only an opportunity to for me to present my paper, but to learn from other scholars addressing these specific issues in their classrooms.

This panel will address the many possibilities when the use of technology in the classroom is not only continued, but also developed as the needs and demands of our students change as technology continues to advance.

**Benefits: 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 Quoted by Anthony Travel   | $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 |

The cost of the flight has gone up since the original proposal was submitted. The current cost of the flight is $522.63. However, I was able to book the same hotel, Holiday Inn Nashville, for cheaper than the nightly price offered to those attending the conference. The hotel rate has dropped from $152/night to $117/night. This, in addition to not requesting a per diem due to the increase in airfare, raises the original proposal amount around $3 in total. The original amount requested was $ 987.17, and the current amount requested is $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.