Tumblr as Artist Studio: Digital Interventions for Multilingual Students

Ryan Sloan
University of California, Berkeley
sloanstudio.tumblr.com / @rrussellsloan
Student anxiety:
final product over iterative process
How can the structured use of multimodal tools like Tumblr help to reduce the affective filter and improve critical reading, writing, and thinking skills?
Framework of Rigorous Play

Value of the ‘pedagogy of abundance’ (Weller 2011) and the importance of self-regulated learning:
- goal-directed / independent access
- a willingness to access, explore & contribute
- metacognitive iteration

A cumulative, recursive, and interlocking framework (Matsuda 2010) that honors World Englishes while teaching the strategies of discourse negotiation and the principle of 'rigorous play'.
Creative Clutter: juxtaposition is opportunity

Centrality: work at different stages in one studio space
Adding to the toolbox

Not reinventing the wheel

Instructors: Useful, free tools that efficiently complement existing techniques

Students: Interactive engagement inside the classroom

Students: Continuous learning outside the classroom
Tools overview

Peer-Teacher Response
- bCourses
- tumblr
- twitter
- voicethread
- weebly for education

Research & Collaboration
- diigo
- zotero
- Google Drive

Mind Mapping
- coggle
- mindmeister
- mindmeisters

Presentation
- Prezi
- PowerPoint
- screenr
- Storybird
- YouTube
Tumblr: simple interface, potentially rich space for ideation, semi-public writing & thinking
bCourses: student-led, analytical Forums discussions between classes, on campus platform
Stephanie Trzcinski

College Writing R1A, Section 012

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Essay IV, Final

A Magician's Love

Magicians thrive on being able to fool the audience with an illusion they create. It can be a dangerous thing when magicians bring their own lives and emotions into their illusions, where they could get their business mixed with pleasure. Love is a complex emotion and when you tie it to something as equally complicated as magic, it is difficult to truly get a handle on either, no matter how great a magician you are. In Glen David Gold’s ‘Carter Beats the Devil’,

Google Docs: peer and instructor feedback, with metacognitive loop
Multimodal hub: ideation & completed projects

Final Project Abstract

Places are peculiar things. Conceptually speaking, places are stable, isolated regions that often generate an influence that expands both spatially and temporally as a result of the rich meaning that a group of individuals collectively imbue within the place. Using this concept as a launch pad for investigation, this essay seeks to explore the ways in which people construct a place socially, and, the resulting ramifications of a collective construction. More specifically, this essay is an attempt to understand the early social construction of California and its effect on the physical landscape. Throughout California’s history, people have struggled to reconcile fantastical and paradisiacal preconceived notions of the “Golden State” with the starkness of reality. This contradiction continues to incite debate today: Headlines from reputable news sources, including NBC News (“Is California Dreaming Over?”) and Time Magazine (“Despite its Woes, California’s Dream Still Lives”) serve as a testament to the confusion and anxiety surrounding the present and future state of California. The Central Valley sits at the literal and figurative heart of the debate; commentators are worried that the “Breadbasket of the Nation” is becoming “the Wastebasket of the Nation,” for lack of a better name. In an attempt to reconcile the general bewilderment surrounding the “Golden State” and the Central Valley, it seems that the social construction of California – commonly referred to as the “California Dream” – is a utopian projection of the state that actively perpetuates the degradation of the landscape.
Final Project Proposal

Topic: The California Dream

I want to explore the meaning of the "California Dream" and the ways in which the physical landscape of the "golden state" has been influenced by this dream. In a broad sense, I will attempt to analyze the ways in which our perception of the natural world influences our ability to engage with natural resources by using California as a case study.

Tentative Thesis: The "California Dream" – the singular belief that California is a place of new beginnings and boundless opportunity, where great wealth will reward
Annotation and early analysis

Annotations for Lapham's Quarterly

Lapham's Quarterly

Pages: 90-97

1974: New York City

tightrope walker; marked the city becoming more dangerous

“Nothing is so easy as to deceive one’s self; for what we wish, that we readily believe.” Demosthenes, 349 BC

Going back to the Teller’s Seven Laws of Magic... Rule number six: nothing tools you better than the lie you tell yourself. Maybe believing in the impossible tricks on the tightrope bring a whimsical aspect to life.

“the dealers and junkies hovered near his show. They could see how much he was making” pg. 90

The danger aspect to his job, stealing other sellers territories. But the dealers liked his trick and let him stay.

“This was the city he had crawled into— he was surprised to find that there were edges beneath his own edge.” pg. 90

You could possibly make the claim that the tightrope walker is also a co artist and steals from people. Themes: karma

“Nobody cares when you were born” pg. 91
Guided brainstorming

brainstorming Essay II

I'm not sure what I am going to write about in Essay II. I have a good feeling that I might be writing about either Jones piece on “The Honor System” or Singer’s piece “Secrets of the Magus”. They both fascinated me because of the idea of art, deception, what is right or wrong with magic. There are subtle hints of ego-in them as well. In Teller’s piece he talks a lot of preting his magic so it does not have to become a cookie cutter art.

self-Assessment I

I was very proud of my introduction, seeing if it is relevant to the thesis. I like how I concluded each and every sentence, it seemed to tie everything that was in the paragraph and allude to the next paragraph.

The techniques that actually helped me for this essay were adding complexity to questions. Able to annotate in multiple different ways in order to see further connections in the story. Going back to the introduction and seeing if it is relevant to the thesis.

Things that I need to improve on is having a reflection paragraph stronger. I would have liked to expanded on the ideas to make the paper longer than the 3 ½ pages that I had come up with. Because of that I wished I could have condensed it

lapham’s Quarterly Readings

- His mission, in sum, is to reignite our collective sense of wonder” (Singer 33)
  - “The magician performs a task and the illusion is created in the mind of the audience” (Singer 42)

- His mission, in sum, is to reignite our collective sense of wonder” (Singer 33)
  - “The magician performs a task and the illusion is created in the mind of the audience” (Singer 42)

- “Breaking In

This is an introduction to the entertainer. How the entertaining performance makes enough money where he feels as a major party. A major party will tell the history of the entertainer.

At the end the author believe that he is the one who created the illusion of the story.

“Knowing Who

This story used to be a Standard work of Harry Houdini’s essay, or a story about. It just gets into understanding just to do it or is it by personal experience or children by seeing an illusion impossible to anything more going to happen.

My semi-late/condensed brainstorm

Orange = Title and Author
Blue = Themes/Big Ideas
Green = Literary Devices
Red = Specific Literary Devices
Iterative drafts

From Indicators of Class to Markers of Libido: Female Tattoos As Signs of Persisting Subordination of Women

Abstract
Whenever women choose to adorn themselves with tattoos, their entire community is immediately factored into the equation of what the scars should be, where they should be, and even what they should mean. Even across different time periods and geographies, female tattoos have consistently served as gateways for societal prejudice and objectification of their owners. Since Spanish and American colonial eras, two general trends in societal perspectives on tattooed women have involved viewing their body art as indicators of socioeconomic status and as markers of promiscuity and libido. As female tattoos entered mainstream culture for the first time between the 1970s and 1980s, tattooed women found themselves increasingly dehumanized as society perpetuated notions of their being sexual objects subordinate to men. At the same time, women began to find solace in tattooing as a means for self-expression and reclamation of their bodies. This paper investigates shifts between these two trends in recent female tattoo history and their implications within the broader context of women’s autonomy and ability for self-empowerment through tattoos.

Essay III — Final Draft

Final Research Project: Abstract & Reflection (Drafts)

Abstract (Draft)
When women in particular choose to adorn themselves with tattoos, all of society is immediately factored into the equation of what the scars should be, where they should be, and even what they should mean. Tattoos, then, reveal that women remain today are not the sole owners of their bodies, but sidelong voices in the making of choices regarding their appearances. Historically, tattooed women have been frequently objectified for numerous reasons and from diverse cultural perspectives. In shifting from being indicators of low socioeconomic status to markers of supposed lascivious behavior, tattoos on women ultimately subject them to prejudices of varied types. This paper discusses whether or not women objectify themselves through obtaining tattoos and how much of their objectification is attributed to the rest of society. Changing ideologies about the functions of female tattoos as well as shifts in attitudes towards tattooed women will be investigated as parameters defining the line between self-induced social oppression and that which is externally sourced.

Reflection (Draft)
Over the course of my research project, I learned how to choose an appropriate angle for a paper on a topic that interests me personally. As someone interested in both cultural history as well as recently revived feminist movements, I initially approached the topic of tattooed women, their histories, and their broader implications regarding societal constructs in terms of following chronologically the

Research Abstract & Reflection Drafts

Research Abstract
What context do readers need in this high-level paragraph to understand the core problem of the question you are exploring? Why significant/surprising? Do you have a multipart thesis (launching point)?
When women in particular choose to adorn themselves with tattoos, all of society is immediately factored into the equation of what the scars should be, where they should be, and even what they should mean. Tattoos, then, reveal that women even today are not the sole owners of their bodies, which historically have been frequently objectified and socially oppressed by traditional notions of femininity as well as idealized chastity.

Thesis: The line between women objectifying themselves through tattoos and society’s objectification of their bodies: what decides these parameters today.

- Media representations
- Commercialization and commodification of women’s tattoos, which are often meant mostly to fulfill personal desires (and not those of others)

Research Reflection
3 Questions.
- Thoughtful approach to both this and abstract. Even creative.
- What have you gotten stronger at, as writers, readers and thinkers?
- What was your particular process, from ideation to gathering sources to
Fieldwork & interviews

On your blog, write up your Observation Exercise about a place [your original one or perhaps based on the field work we did today]. You must include images and preferably audio or video as well — not necessarily from the moment you observed, but which help a viewer fully immerse in the location.

PHONE CALL

Thursday Night 9:36

I get a call from my grandma. I get the usual, “Como estas miña?” “Te extraño.” The usual. Then she proceeds to tell me that she is going to a wedding in San Francisco and that she’s going to pick me up the next day to go with her. Well, there were a few things odd with that. 1. who’s wedding is she going to? (We don’t know anyone in the bay area) and 2. My grandma lives in Mexico, so what is she doing here? Apparently, I have family up here and I am going to meet them. I had originally done my observation at the MCC but I found the wedding to be more interesting. I knew no one there but we all were related.

My night:

I arrived at the wedding 2 hours late. For that, you could blame my grandpa. We missed the reception but we made the party. The party was out in Daly City at a two story house that had a deck. I walk up the stairs to make it to the deck and there, I am reminded of where I come from. To the right, there was the mariachi. There were three of them, one with a vihuera and the other two with a guitar. They strummed their instruments and sang “Una Pagina Mas.” To my left, there was a whole row of my favorite mexican dishes: ceviche, ensalada de frutas con crema, salad. rice, beans and of course a taqueria. It was a weird tension feeling of nostalgia and not. 

Interview number two:

Xochitl.
Xochitl Esperanza Lopez Andrade : (XELA):
#interview

Interview number one:

Jhon Jairo Valencia
#interview

Wedding
Guided self-assessment

Explore a Conceptual Question—a search, based on evidence and reflection, in which you are writing this essay to arrive somewhere surprising and unexpected. Weigh many sides of the issue with ethos, add a new angle or dimension to the debate, and bring your own perspective to bear as you join the discussion.

- Startup culture and the perpetual gold rush: self-invention in California; dreamers' culture; willingness to expose oneself and relations to vulnerability and fallibility
- Lost or hidden spaces: the ghosts that walk with us (places like cinema, etc.
- Foodie culture and the picket of clean living

Self-Assessment 1

What are you proudest of in Essay 1? Why?
- Mountain metaphor running from introduction to conclusion. I'm not sure if I pulled it off effectively, but I liked that I coincidentally found and was able to add a mountain-related quote that actually tied into my reflections midway through the paper
- Tried considering as many questions as possible about the significance of what was being included as evidence and reflection
- Organized an outline for myself

What skills/techniques that we practiced over the past few weeks were useful for you, and why?
- Silent questions to complicate my brainstorming, such as "what if it's not so simple?", "and so?", "and yet?", all encouraging me to dip deeper in my analysis and (hopefully) bring an overall concept to fruition
- Reminders on what makes effective introductions. This definitely inspired me to go further with my first paragraph, it also reminded me that I can apply...
Sample student writing blogs

R4B Reading, Composition, & Research
- Spenser: http://satlas.tumblr.com/
- Yanna: http://explorationsintotheunknown.tumblr.com/
- Natalie: http://nattzhang.tumblr.com/

R1A Accelerated Reading & Composition - Generation 1.5 / Multilingual students
- China: http://writingandmagic.tumblr.com
- Alejandro: http://mr-e-magic.tumblr.com
- Tien: http://thnnguyen.tumblr.com

N2 Writing the Bridge – Summer Program - Generation 1.5 / Multilingual students
- Cecil: http://cecilpuede.tumblr.com
- Andrea: http://andrent.tumblr.com
- Isaias [still posting!] http://isaiaszsszstuff.tumblr.com
Initial findings with Tumblr

- The affective filter gradually lowers for learners suffering from anxiety over the creation of ‘perfect’ work
- Students often do more writing and more work, as they seek out additional evidence (images, video, audio, links, cited passages to quote)
- Quality of the brainstorming / drafting posts: generally rough syntax & grammar but more freely engaged
- When focused on semi-public nature of final drafts, students keep rhetorical audience in mind
- “I used tumblr as much as I could to post ideas, thoughts and it helped keep everything organized with easy access”

- “Really helpful... much easier to follow the coursework simply due to the informality “

- “Posting my writing and ideas onto the Tumblr blog was very useful and different. It allowed me to save my work in one area, but also to express my ideas in a different way. It removed the anxieties of writing.”
Cross-discipline applicability

- Digital literacy, distributed cognition & collective intelligence [Jenkins 2006]

- Sciences: lab journals; collaborative peer-to-peer learning; science news social media aggregator

- Social sciences: fieldwork; digital artifacts; response writing

- Humanities: writing, research, & critical thinking skillset
The magic of an iterative structure