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# Teaching Social Media Use and Information Literacy in the Basic Communication Course

Sarah Turner McGowen

## Abstract

Social media has played an important role in political discourse, from the organization of social movements to the spread of misinformation in American elections. Additionally, Americans rely on social media to get their news and to debate important issues: Gottfried and Shearer (2016) note that 62% of U.S. adults report getting news from social media sites, in addition to more traditional news sources. Further, Macafee (2018) has found that social media use has a moderating influence on offline political participation, meaning how an individual assesses the significance of information found through social media sites is related to political action (such as engaging in further discussion). While information literacy is regularly taught in college classrooms, it is important to equip students with the skills necessary to distinguish credible sources from non-credible sources (Kurbanoglu, Akkoyunlu, & Umay, 2006; Meyer, Hunt, Hopper, Thakkar, Tsubakopoulos, & Van Hoose, 2008). This learning activity is designed to engage students in social media information literacy, particularly focusing on the identification of social media posts that include references to external sources and credible references through the internet. I will describe an in-class activity, how to debrief students following the activity, and an appraisal of how the activity has worked in the classroom in the past.

# **Code-Switching and Communication Patterns: An Ethnographic Study of Emergency Medical Technicians**

Elaine Davies & Dusten Lynn

## **Abstract**

### Abstract

The ability to communicate effectively and efficiently is important in a variety of workplaces, however in the medical field, strong message construction skills are vital. As first responders, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) must converse simultaneously with patients, other first responders, and medical professionals as part of their job. For example, they need to gather information from a victim in an uncomplicated fashion, but also relay that data to the area hospital staff using standard medical terminology. Therefore, this study examines how the use of code-switching occurs in the daily routine of EMTs. Specifically, we use an ethnographic methodology to explore what types of communication patterns emerge during course-mandated, clinical observations for EMT students. Observations took place over three, 12-hour shifts. Results indicate that the participant-observer witnessed and engaged in downward, upward, and horizontal communication patterns, often within the same “call.” The findings lead to the implication of the necessity for communication training for EMTs, specifically in the areas of interpersonal communication and professional communication.

# Reporting on Race: The Depiction of Black Oklahomans

Savannah Melher

## Abstract

The purpose of the study was to further scholarly research regarding depictions of race and the media. Studies prior to mine focused primarily on politics and how news stories favor one candidate over another or political party. Thus addressing how the media can be a tool for gaining political preference. The same can be concluded after considering race in news media as I have found specifically in Travis Dixon's 2015 Color of Change project. Upon completion of a content analysis the issue of stereotyping people of color as criminals or victims in Oklahoma's print news coverage from January to March, June and July for the years 2019 and January to March in 1989. Specific categories within news stories were coded to quantify the frequency of crime reporting. The criteria included: race, gender, indicator, and the crime/victim. The results of the content analysis produced an overwhelming percentage of news reports for the time period focusing on black males as murder perpetrators. When compared to local statistics, The Oklahoman reported significantly more on black man than the average amount reported in 2018 crime reports. Overall, the small sample produces a need to broaden the time frame of research.

# **Just Reading for Fun: Viewing Perceived Credibility Through the Lens of ELM**

Yanjun Zhao

## **Abstract**

This study used the Elaboration Likelihood Model to explain people's news consumption. Specifically, it is an effort to answer these questions: When are people more critical on possible fake news? When do they do fact check of the news? This study is an exploration research on people's perception of health-related news shared by WeChat, the most popular social media in China.

# Photo Manipulation

Will Lovelace

## Abstract

Scrolling through pictures on Google I came across this picture of a red stag, being a hunter this picture stuck me as interesting. You can tell clearly that the animal itself has been edited as well as the background scenery. I enjoy the work they did to the animal in the picture, enhancing and changing the horns into tree branches or roots. These effects help the picture and the animal look bigger as a whole, which I like. One of the things I do not like about the picture is that it looks like it was taken in a foggy city park. This takes away in my opinion from the majesty of the animal, the feel that it is not in its natural environment. The focus is on the the animal but the leaves blowing helps enhance the environment and setting of this photo. This picture causes little to no truly ethical issues, but the picture itself has been manipulated to make the animal more physically appealing when you see the picture printed out. Red stags have a large set of antlers on top of their heads that some people could confuse as an actual tree. Their antlers are majestic and should be enjoyed for their true beauty. If someone would try to sell a hunt on an animal that looked like that and actually had someone dumb enough to purchase a hunt to kill a potential giant, they could be liable to give someone their money back due to there not being any stag that look like that or grow that big. If this picture is truly analyzed at face value it is a great picture of a beautiful an

# When Photoshop Attempts to Define Reality

Alexis Hagen

## Abstract

This is a before and after photo of Katherine Heigl one can only assume is for a magazine or portfolio. The controversial issue with this image is the obvious change in physical appearance. In the after photo she is shown to be skinnier and have more curves. She has more cleavage in the after photo. Her skin tone and hair tone is brighter. Her jaw is more defined and her makeup is more prominent. The argument against Photoshopped images is that it gives a false perception of reality. The argument in support of Photoshop is that this makes the image more visually appealing and the general public prefers this perception.

The ethical issue among these types of photos, simply lies within the ignorance of the general public. Because most people don't take the time to truly digest what images they are taking in, they do not realize how quick and easy it is to change how a person looks in a photo. Therefore, this public believes that is how beautiful people are supposed to look and begin doubting their own self-image. These types of photos are often seen as harmful to society because it gives a false perception on how people actually look. The main argument for people who Photoshop these photos is plainly: This is what sells. If people did in fact have issues with these photos, they would not buy them. So while yes, the ethical issue still lies...it doesn't seem like the general public has a problem with it.

# Difficult Pictures

Abbie Lambert

## Abstract

This picture is from The National WWII Museum and it is titled 'The Holocaust'. It is a very powerful photo that causes a lot of strong emotions. The way pictures like these are presented in a way that shows the hardships of c concentration camps. The Third Reich attempted to hide the truth of how badly humans were treated in the Concentration Camps. Once pictures of this caliber were released a lot of people were upset about the conditions. This was difficult for people to view because it is so real and overall upsetting. The truth of our history is difficult and some people believe that seeing that truth somehow tarnishes the human condition. A large group of people are too uncomfortable with pictures like these and the rest of people are under the belief that honesty and truth is how we don't repeat atrocities of this extent. The time of this picture was a period of bigotry, discrimination, and injustice. The two sides of this coin are really is this picture too difficult to view or do we as humans NEED to see images like this to understand the gravity of how bad the world can be.



# Unethical Issues in Photojournalism

Kobe Louis

## Abstract

This picture is an example of picture manipulation. It is often used in magazines and ads for beauty products. They take a regular picture of the model, then they do a lot of editing making the model look like a whole different person. Most of the time they do this to promote the product they are trying to sell and to make the buyer think that the product will make them look like this. It works in favor of the companies using this technique because it gets the consumer buy the product thinking they will look like this. They see this picture and think that they have to look like this. It is unethical because it is not the real picture.

I chose picture manipulation because I feel like this is one of the most used unethical issue in photojournalism. This does not only happen to women but also men. When people see these picture like this it make people feel bad about themselves. People think that they need to look like this because of the ad. It also sets a standard that all women need to be beautiful to be attractive which is not true. For men they usually edit them to look tone and fit. Which makes guys think that they need to look like that to be attractive. Because of photos like this people try too hard to make their appearance look better. These companies really need to stop using digital manipulation because it is hurting the consumer more than doing good.

# The Ethics of Photo Manipulation

Glen Archer

## Abstract

This image shows President Abraham Lincoln's head photoshopped onto the body of another politician. The argument against this is that it can be misleading to an audience who has never seen the original image. This argument applies to all photos that have been altered in this way. It is, however, defended by some because it is art and people should have creative freedom. This ethical dilemma in photoshopped pictures has been around for a very long time, the above photo being one of the earlier displays of it. Many people that it is wrong and misleads viewers, whether it be changing who is in the picture, adding or removing things, or making a person look better or worse. This is part of creative freedom, but can cause confusion and, in the worst cases, harm to some.

# Photo Manipulation

Taylor Smith

## Abstract

I believe edited photos like this are very detrimental to young girls and boys and adults as well. Society profits off of our insecurities and imperfections and we are made to believe that our bodies need to be altered like those in magazines when truthfully, those people don't exist. They are composed of Photoshop and lighting and society's idea of a perfect body and perfect skin tone and it is not okay. We are all real people with real bodies and real feelings and being told our bodies do not fit the norm are not okay and are unrealistic. I picked this particular photograph of Zendaya because of how she outed the magazine for their cruelty and desires to make money and appeal to their outdated and unrealistic ideals of beauty. She stood up for what she believed in and thought of the minds of young girls who look up to her as a role model and I admire that about her.

# Picture Manipulation

Makinley Kennedy

## Abstract

Pictured above is Filippa Hamilton, a past model for the Ralph Lauren Fashion Company. On the left, she is depicted in an advertisement that was mass produced in Ralph Lauren stores across Japan as well as on numerous websites. In contrast, on the right, she is in the flesh walking down the runway. When I first encountered this photo, I was completely astonished at the manipulation that had been done to it. As a child, my oldest sister had an eating disorder and the doctored photo above was her actual body. Therefore, this picture instantly hit home for me and the message that it had to offer. Photo manipulation, when used to alter one's body, is completely unethical. I strongly believe a picture is worth 1,000 words; therefore, every photo has a point to make, and when this message is changed without the subject's consent, injustice has occurred. Models, who have their figures changed without their knowledge, are being forced to represent an idea that beauty is attained through impossible standards. This, in turn, also means they stand for millions of viewers to have body image issues and insecurities. However, models are not immune to low self-esteem that is coupled with digital doctoring. When they witness their heads being bigger than their waists, they begin to question their own appearance and whether or not they are good enough to be considered beautiful. Photo manipulation, although is said to make someone beautiful, is truly one of the ugliest practices.

# Bonnie and Clyde Death

Jacob Smith

## Abstract

This picture reveals the aftermath of the deaths of the famous gangster couple, Bonnie and Clyde. The couple was ambushed and shot to death by local police officers and Texas Rangers on May 23, 1934. This picture was taken sometime after the ambush. I'm not sure if this picture was released to the public at the time or not, but needless to say it is a gruesome picture. I do not think there is much controversy over this picture, but one could argue on why would someone take this picture of two dead bodies in the first place. One point of view, of someone who dislikes the picture, could be it seems too violent and disrespectful to be taking pictures of two broken dead bodies. Another could argue, that perhaps the picture could be used for documentation or for some sort of police records. And maybe the everyday people need to see proof of these two criminals dead.

# American Veteran

Erica Wilson-Traxler

## Abstract

This is a picture of a veteran who participated in a 60-hour marathon endurance test for extreme fitness people called the Agoge. It is a Spartan Race that was modeled after the original Spartans. This is Earl Granville who participated with a five-man team of wounded military veterans in the race. This veteran lost his leg while serving his country in Afghanistan.

Cropping this photo made it seem larger. They zoomed in, which made the body seem bigger, cut off the hat, and part of the prosthetic leg. They also completely changed the logo on the shirt. The new picture makes it seem that this person is probably a veteran and doesn't stand for disrespect to the country or flag. They stand proud and tall against all enemies foreign or domestic even now with disabilities. This picture is unethical because it misrepresents this disabled veteran. The shirt says "I don't kneel" which could mean that because he served his country he would never "disrespect" the flag like others have by kneeling. The original picture shows strength after struggle. It shows determination, motivation, dedication, and accomplishment. The altered picture is giving an opinion on a stance, where the original shows conviction.

# **Another Surprise: The Senselessness Behind a Picture**

Linda Wood

## **Abstract**

This study is on the photo of Kendrick Johnson, a 17-year-old high school student who was found dead rolled in a gym mat in one of Georgia High schools. This a senseless murder. I read that the students would hide belongings in or around the mats so no one would steal them, to keep from paying to use a locker. Out of all the people in the gym, nobody was concerned, when he did not walk out the gym hours later. Nobody heard his cry for help in that gym. What happened to the teachers checking the gym before lock down? Why did it take 24 hours to realize he was missing? The researcher of this study interviewed some college students about this issue.

# **We Are Here! We Are LGBTQ! Get Used to It!**

Syuan Huei Wu & Jueun Lee

## **Abstract**

On May 24, 2019, Taiwan became the first nation in Asia to legalize and perform same-sex marriage. Amid the legalization, there are still limitations for same-sex couples which include adoption and family planning. In socially conservative South Korea, being LGBTQ was often seen as a disability, mental illness, or a sin. In January 2020, a case of a male soldier, who had undergone sex reassignment surgery, was discharged from her military duties. The case has sparked a wider discussion about LGBTQ in South Korea. In their poster presentation, Syuan Huei Wu from Taiwan and Jueun Lee from South Korea will address the history of LGBTQ movement. The presenters also hope to have a conversation about LGBTQ issues in Taiwan, South Korea, and in the USA with the hope of learning, raising awareness, and finding a common ground on long-overdue LGBTQ laws and conflicting viewpoints.