

Performing Realities Against Mysterious Missiles and Other News Fantasies

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Overview

Mon Nov 8: video taken
Tues Nov 9: CBS LA segment airs
Wed Nov 10: 400+ news outlets, 2000+ stories
Thu Nov 11: Veterans Day: Blame the Military



Reality versus 'Reality'

- Argument and Reason
- Fiction versus Non-Fiction
- Mystery versus Fact versus Entertainment

Common Sense as Culturally Shaped Terrain for Public Struggle

- Culture as process not as artifact
- Dominance of news media veneer of 'objectivity' in 'reporting'
- News as a hegemonic project : Stuart Hall's extension of Gramsci for a theory of articulation

News as Visual-Poetic Fiction

- From objectivism to literary and poetic performances
- News reporters as performers and/or as sophistic rhetors
- Challenges to the "severe textualism" in academic study of texts (Dwight Conquergood)

Character Pathologies in News Texts: From Reports to Rhetors/Performers

- Plagiarism, Re-citation and In-citation
- Punny and Poetic Headlines (e.g. "Shutdown Showdown")
- Evasion of responsibility and accountability
- Tactical use of passive voice

Mimesis to Poiesis to Kinesis

- Cultural identity as news-dominated re-iteration of oppressive norms
- Breaking and remaking the articulation of cultural identity: intervening in news re-production
- Performance and pedagogy for engaging public common sense in classrooms
- Transgressing against English/Arts/Humanities departments' traditional categorization of texts
- Example: Remaking the "Shutdown Showdown"

Selected references:

Conquergood, Dwight. "Beyond the Text: Toward a Performative Cultural Politics." *The Future of Performance Studies: Visions and Revisions*. Ed. Sheron J Dailey. Washington, D.C.: NCA, 1998. 25-36.
Crosswhite, James. *The rhetoric of reason: writing and the attractions of argument*. Univ of Wisconsin Press, 1996.
Hall, Stuart. "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity." In Morley and Chen, Eds. *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. Routledge, 1996.

Video clips and other news texts:

CBS LA:	Mystery Missile Launch Caught on Tape	http://bit.ly/cbstv-nov9
CBS LA:	Pentagon Stumped by Mystery Missile	http://bit.ly/cbstv-nov10
CBS NYC:	Object Streaks over NYC	http://bit.ly/cbstv-nov11
Bahneman:	It Was US Airways Flight 808	http://bit.ly/bahneman-nov9
	Missile Theorists, Where's Your Proof?	http://bit.ly/bahneman-challenge-nov14
West:	A Problem of Perspective	http://bit.ly/contrailscience-nov9
	LA Missile Contrail Explained in Pictures	http://bit.ly/contrailscience-nov13
Pike:	Mystery Missile Madness	http://bit.ly/globalsecurity-nov10
SPACE.com:	Infamous Contrail	http://bit.ly/spacedotcom-nov16
Glenn Beck:	Interview with Sarah Palin, Nov 24	http://bit.ly/beck-palin-nov24