

Response Paper 2 on *Fandom*
Due: April 22 Worth: 15%

In the introduction to their collection *Fandom: Identities and Communities in a Mediated World*, editors Jonathan Gray, Cornel Sandvoss, and C. Lee Harrington write:

Studying fan audiences allows us to explore some of the key mechanisms through which we interact with the mediated world at the heart of our social, political, and cultural realities and identities. Perhaps the most important contribution of contemporary research into fan audiences thus lies in furthering our understanding of how we form emotional bonds with ourselves and others in a modern, mediated world. (10)

In a concise but detailed essay of 2-3 pages, compare and contrast two different essays from *Fandom*, using them to illustrate – or take issue with – the philosophy the editors have articulated. (You can draw on any of the pieces in the book.) How do the essays you have chosen each engage with and construct “fan audiences”? How do their methodologies, arguments, and results compare? And do you agree that contemporary fan studies, as presented in the essays you have selected, furthers “our understanding of ... a modern, mediated world”? If so, what light does fan studies shed on our larger shared culture? If not, where do you see blind spots and a need for different approaches? This assignment asks you to read closely and respond critically to individual essays, but also to speculate about the overall contours of fan studies as presented in / represented by *Fandom*.

Your paper should be typed and double-spaced, clearly written, and free of mechanical errors. Page citations should be given within the text. Please provide a bibliography citing the essays to which you are referring. Please number and staple your pages. Emailed papers will be accepted only if agreed on in advance.

Papers will be assessed by the following criteria: cogency and force of argument; accuracy and specificity of reference to the essays in *Fandom*; overall clarity and organization.