

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

POST OBSERVATION CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM

Date of Discussion 4/4/19

Observation date 3/12/19

Candidate's Name Jason Ellis

Department English

Representatives Present \_\_\_\_\_

Course & Section ENG1710:DS14 Name of Observer Mark Noonan

Name of Observee Jason Ellis

Date Observation Filed \_\_\_\_\_ with Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

P&B member or other assigned by chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Signed: [Signature] Title Professor

I understand that my signature means only that I have read this memorandum and that I may attach any comments I wish.

Staff Member's Signature [Signature] date 4/4/2019  
6/96

**NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
CLASS OBSERVATION REPORT**

**Name:** Jason Ellis  
**Department:** English  
**Date of Observation:** 3/12/2019

**Rank:** Assistant Professor  
**Course/Section:** ENG1710: D514

**Lesson of Topic and Brief Summary:**

This class consisted of a review of earlier readings and their connection to Marshall McLuhan's "The Medium is the Message," the reading for the day. The class ended with a discussion of the upcoming research proposal.

**1. Classroom Management:** Satisfactory

Professor Ellis began class making important student announcements, such as a notice for test-taking skills and a last call for submitting work for the Literary Arts Festival.

**2. Professional Traits Relevant to Teaching:** Satisfactory

Appearance and demeanor were professional. Professor Ellis spoke with authority and held the attention of his students well.

**3. Subject Mastery:** Excellent

If anything stood out the most from this fantastic class, it is Professor Ellis' truly impressive subject mastery. He is remarkably fluent in the history and theory of language and technology and is able to get across very dense subject material in a clear, succinct, enjoyable style that helps students access and appreciate the course material.

**4. Organization and Development of Material:** Excellent

Professor Ellis' organization and development of the day's lecture was very lucid and well-organized. He began by defining key terms such as Afro-futurism and Feminism (in connection to an upcoming conference). He then proceeded to review the semester's readings to put them in context of the reading of the day: Marshall McLuhan's "The Medium is the Message" from *Understanding Media*. Carefully and lucidly, Professor Ellis reviewed Ted Chiang's "The Truth of Fact, the Truth of Feeling" which speaks to a shift from oral culture to a literate culture to our present digital culture. He next reviewed Victoria's Fromkin's "What is language," Nicholas Wade's "Early Voices: The Leap to Language," Stephen Jay Klein's "What is Technology," Salikoko Mufwene's "Language as Technology," Walter Ong's "Writing is a Technology," Burce Mazlish's "The Fourth Discontinuity," Donna Haraway's "A Cyborg Manifesto," and N. Katherine Hayles'

"Toward Embodied Virtuality." The engaged students meanwhile took lots and lots of notes on their computers. These summaries led smoothly to a discussion of the reading of the day by McLuhan.

**5. Presentation of Material: Excellent**

Professor Ellis' presentation of material was superb. He regularly asked students to think about key terms such as "perception," "adaption," and "etherealization." He also asked challenging questions relating to the course readings such as "What is technology doing to us?" and "How is language affected by these technological changes?" Professor Ellis also did a fine job explaining the research proposal that was to be due from all the students, by placing all its components on the board and giving clear examples of the proposal's expectations.

**6. Student-Instructor Interaction: Excellent**

The student-instructor interaction was excellent. Students listened carefully to what the instructor had to say and many offered illuminating responses to key questions posed by him on McLuhan and other theorists.


**7. Overall Evaluation: Excellent**

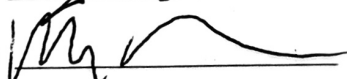
This class was one of the finest classes I have observed in over ten years. The level of discourse and inquiry were extremely high and the Professor was both knowledgeable and supportive of his students. Also impressive was the encouragement he gave his students to perform research on library databases and to strive to be original in their own work. A truly impressive class.

**8. Specific Recommendations for Improvement:**

None. An excellent class in every way.

*I have read and have been given a copy of the above report, and so signify by my signature below. I understand that I may attach additional comments to this document.*

Signature of Observee: 

Signature of Observer: 

April 4, 2019