Possible Research Topics

traditional print media & journalism

digital text & online versions of print media

zines and alternative print media

blogs, wikis and alternative electronic media

non-text media: images, audio, video

participatory media & web 2.0

social networking

privacy

ethics, including plagiarism

copyright and fair use; open access

Refining the research question

Vague: Should young people be spending so much time using online social networks? Which is better, online networking or face-to-face networking?

Better: What are the long-term effects of use of social networking sites like Facebook on adolescents, and how are they detrimental to developing communication skills?

Refining the research question

Vague: Should music sampling be protected under Fair Use guidelines?

Better: How can Creative Commons licenses be best used to stimulate the recording industry so that artists and record labels are fairly compensated?

Information Ethics: Plagiarism

LIB 1201
Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Academic definitions of plagiarism

Richard A. Posner defines plagiarism as "fraudulent copying"[1]

The OWL: "the uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas"[2]

1. Posner, Richard A. *The Little Book of Plagiarism*. Pantheon, 2007.
2. Stolley, Karl. "Avoiding Plagiarism." Purdue Online Writing Lab. 27 February 2012. http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

A Few Real World Plagiarists

- Eugene Tobin resigned the presidency of Hamilton College (2002)

- James Frey fabricated his addiction memoir *A Million Little Pieces*, an Oprah's Book Club selection (2003)

- Kaavya Viswanathan, novelist/unintentional plagiarist? See Katie Couric interview (2006)

- Quentin Rowan, chronic plagiarist or mash-up artist? (2012)

- Jonah Lehrer, *New Yorker* staff writer, plagiarized his own writing and fabricated quotes (2012)

For Wednesday, October 10

Copyright and fair use; open access

Reading: [Center for Social Media](#) sections "Code" and "Principles" only

Viewing: [Lessig](#) on laws that choke creativity; Faden, [A Fair(y) Use Tale](#); Grey, [Copyright: Forever less one day](#)

A*ssignment:* Write one reading response blog post