Bryan Quinonez

Cover Letter Draft

The draft of my assignment is below. The word I chose to define was *vigilante*. A vigilante is a member of a volunteer committee that is organized in order suppress and/or punish criminals without the approval of the law. I thought I would be able to express this definition through the use of a poster/news article. I pictured something that could make front cover headlines and or could be posted on a wall for people to see as they go about their day, kind of like a wanted poster. I may switch to a more "wanted poster" type design but for now I am going to try the front cover of a newspaper article. I believe there is a certain amount of irony behind making a newspaper article in order to talk about cybercriminals considering that newspapers are becoming an obsolete form of sharing the news with common people. I feel like by making a newspaper article, it connects with a certain audience that still picks up the morning paper. This demographic of people is often older generations and/or people who are not technology savvy.

This demographic often has very negative feelings towards technology, especially those who use technology "for evil" as many people believe Anonymous does. These people are often not very informed about Anonymous and other hacker groups like them and considering that Anonymous is trying to be more of a hacktivist group then the newspaper article can seem like a hyperbolized example of one of Anonymous' operations. To people who do not follow Anonymous operations or do not believe that these hackers are social justice fighters, they see their actions in a very linear fashion. These criminals without an identity are attacking the government and in the process hurting innocent people (as expressed by the end of the summary description about FBI employee identities being leaked. If people do not support Anonymous they usually support the government so these people would see Anonymous as criminals and most likely ignore the entire reason Anonymous would hack the government, which was in order to improve national cybersecurity in order to protect the U.S. from terrorist cyber attacks. The piece about terrorist attacks is a reference to ISIS and their growing contributors to the cyber warfare battle that the U.S. is currently a part of. Anonymous has openly announced war against ISIS therefore it would make sense that they would help the U.S. in order to build up stronger defense against a common enemy, which is ISIS.

Also, the small detail that this is the 2020 edition of the article may imply that things may have changed drastically in four years. First of all, terrorism, especially in the form of cyber warfare, will most likely become one of the leading issues in the future considering that over recent decades, conflict has shifted from between countries to between private organizations. If anything, it is more realistic to believe that Anonymous would take over the conflict against ISIS, or whatever group would be present four years from now. It would not be unrealistic to believe that Anonymous' fame as a "heroic" force that fights for the people could increase. However, with recent current events of Anonymous exposing a lot of false information, it is very

realistic to believe that Anonymous' reputation could fall and they could be seen as criminals to a higher extent than they were already viewed.

This medium is short, has many nuances and presents itself in a very user-friendly way as everyone has seen, or at least know of, newspaper articles. However, I have also considered making a video, in the form of a comic through Powtoon or maybe even a radio broadcast signaling a warning about Anonymous, similar to flood warning announcements. While a Powtoon may be a good choice, it may also lack the serious nature that is almost mocked in this news piece. The whole point of making this newspaper so serious and dark is to mock the exaggerated nature that media tends to depict "anti-government threats." For the most part Anonymous does not approve of government censorship but this does mean Anonymous is full or terrorists as a person with background knowledge on Anonymous would understand from the hyperpolarized nature that the article is presented in. In a way, this newspaper page is more suited for an audience that knows of Anonymous' past and recent attempts to be a more positive force. Therefore, the newspaper medium is more of satire than a literal definition as it mocks the one-sided belief that Anonymous is a threat to the government and everyone involved.

CSG NEWS TODAY

The Hanover 1769   ::   A CSC 2020 Mix   ::   What's Hot Today?

ANONYMOUS

Anonymous Vigilantes Reak Havoc Once Again

Anonymous criminals have hacked the FBI yet again this month saying that it was all in an effort to improve national security of the United States after recent terrorist cyber attacks have struck the nation.

However, FBI Representative Joe Hilltop says that numerous files were stolen and personal information of several thousand employees has been leaked. Further investigation will proceed in the upcoming weeks.

(This is a mock - poster, no information, identities or reports stated are valid)