

Julianne DeAngelo

Definitional Text Full Draft



Dear Megan (can I call you Megan for this?),

As you know, for most of the term, I chose to explore Game of Thrones piracy and its impact on HBO's anti-piracy tactics. One topic that I came across in my research but didn't get to explore as fully was the actual process and community behind illegal file sharing—so, for my definitional text, I decided to define “sharing” in general and connect different types of sharing to the larger idea of community-building. To accomplish this, after some additional research, I tried to focus on two main “types” of sharing: physical social sharing (developed in early childhood) and online social sharing (developed through the use of technology and online identity). Although these definitions are distinct, in my definitional text infographic, I wanted to show how the two types of sharing are related by their common end-goal of community-building, and I also tried to demonstrate how the development of sharing skills comes full-circle throughout a person's development in the technological age.

I decided to use an infographic because I wanted to utilize statistics and images within an aesthetically pleasing medium. I reviewed several infographic templates and eventually decided on the timeline progression; although I didn't use it exactly as a timeline (because I also wanted to show the sequential progression of two different types of sharing), I think this layout is especially effective in showing that both types of sharing lead to the formation of communities. After I had a rough outline of the infographic, I also noticed another beneficial aspect of the infographic layout, which was rather unexpected: the first “level” of the

progression (the first three points/pictures) relate to the development of physical social sharing during childhood, then the next “level” has three transitional events as technology is introduced, and the last “level” is about the development of online social sharing. Essentially, even though the infographic template layout was intended to be used solely as a timeline, my organization of my points/statistics allowed the timeline layout to also structurally show the development and connection between the two distinct definitions of “sharing.” ▾

For the bulk of the actual text (written words) on my infographic, I wanted to use a mix of statistics and larger, more abstract/conceptual ideas. I thought the statistics about the development of sharing skills in early childhood were particularly compelling in that they show how our behavior online directly relates to natural tendencies in human social behavior. The point about how sharing becomes selective also relates to online sharing because, in both childhood and online, you are quite literally choosing the “friends” you share things with. Additionally, I thought the use of the cell-phone age statistic was effective because it shows how quickly social skills developed in early childhood are intertwined with technology; someday in the not-too-distant future, the development of these two types of sharing might occur almost simultaneously. After the cell-phone point, I move on to more conceptual ideas/elaborations in the infographic primarily to take a step back and look at the bigger picture—I think the transition from statistics to more general concepts makes the connection between physical social sharing and online social sharing easier to follow. ▾

The pictures/graphics I chose to represent my ideas are pretty self-explanatory and effective, I think. After peer review, Tony suggested that I make some of the images more representative of the statistics I was using, so I changed the first image from a cartoon of a

single burrito-looking baby to ten burrito-babies with three of the ten partially transparent to demonstrate the 70+% of children who demonstrate natural sharing tendencies naturally and very early on, without any intervention from parents during the actual study. I loved this suggestion from Tony and it definitely helped my infographic to be more effective as a medium. Aside from the first image, I tried to keep the pictures simple yet informative. I knew I wanted to use the Facebook “like” icon somewhere, because it has become such a ubiquitous image in the social media world, and I think it fit well with the concept of forming an online identity—people’s “likes” online are essentially representative of their online personality and interests. I think the use of the “like” button image along with the concept of an online identity is particularly effective.

^there may be typos in this...I typed it super fast

CONCLUSION TBD

FYI: word count on infographic (including title and my name) is 232 ☺