

Digital Technology and Culture 375

Language, Texts and Technology

Washington State University, spring 2010

Assignments due for: **Jan. 20, 2010**

<http://ltspring2010.blogspot.com/>

- [] **Memory exercise (25 points)** – Memorize and present at least 10 lines of a piece of text, which is important to you for sentimental, emotional or personal reasons as well as of some broad artistic importance to others. Imagine that every human record instantaneously was wiped out, and your brain retained the only knowledge of these words. What would you save? And why?
 - [] Choose a text that conveys a complete idea or thought ... prose, poetry or even song lyrics
 - [] Create a www.YouTube.com video (or similar service) **that shows you reciting the piece from memory**, with no notes; send the URL link to brett.oppegaard@gmail.com, with the subject line “Memory URL”, before the start of class (10 points)
 - [] Provide a printed version of that text to the professor before your in-class recitation
 - [] Explain to the class why you chose to present that particular piece
 - [] Recite the text in front of the class from memory, with a high degree of accuracy (15 points)

- [] Start bonding with your Life Map team; rough out a plan and organize your roles for this assignment, then begin collecting symbols you might use and brainstorming ideas to earn all of the assignment's points (for more details, see the Life Map assignment guide, posted on the class blog, under Assignments DUE; start by organizing your team and creating a plan **(due Feb. 10)**.

Readings:

- [] McLuhan, M. and Q. Fiore, “The Medium is the Massage,” pp. 44-69 (course pack 3-16).
- [] Kenneth Burke, “Language as Symbolic Action,” pp. 3-24 (course pack 17-38).