

LOL: Texting, grammar, and writing

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Who am I?

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April 17, 2009


[wac](#)
[c4w](#)
[writing Initiatives](#)
[webmail](#)
[efs](#)

I'm new to the University of Alberta, having come from the University of Western Ontario where I was Director of the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. In my new position here I'll be working with faculty and students across the university as part of the Writing Across the Curriculum initiative. I will also be working with students and faculty in the Department of English and Film Studies.

I am the author, co-author, or editor of five books and 29 articles, including Writing Instruction in Canadian Universities. My current research interests include the development of doctoral student writing, writing assignments across disciplinary fields, and rhetorical approaches to text encoding. Currently I serve as co-Vice-President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW) and a member of the Executive Board of the Canadian Association for the Study of Language and Literacy (CASLL/Inkshed).

Recent presentations
This page contains links to pdfs of slides displayed at presentations I've given.

Books
This page displays the covers and descriptions of books I've authored, co-authored, or co-edited



Blog: Thinking About Writing
A new blog on writing-related issues at the U of A and beyond.

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~graves1/>

Grammar

- Native dialect
- Linguistic grammar—scientific study of language
- Linguistic etiquette—usage
- School grammar
- Stylistic grammar

Grammar & writing

- By age 5, kids know 95% of the grammar of the dialect they are raised in
- Native speakers learn grammar through practice, not rules in books
- Written discourse enforces rules that are distinct from speech
- English has different dialects (varieties) and different registers (levels of formality); each has its own rules

Stanford Study of Student Writers

- As Facebook, Twitter and the internet change how we communicate, how does that effect literacy? Andrea Lunsford the director of writing and rhetoric at Stanford University shares her findings.

- [T]his recent study didn't turn up any significant interference from internet lingo—no IMHOs, no LOLs, no 2nites, no smileys. Apparently, by the time many, many students get to college, they have a pretty good sense of what's appropriate: at the very least, they know the difference between a Facebook friend and a college professor.

Our Semi-literate Youth? Not So Fast

By Andrea A. Lunsford

http://www.stanford.edu/group/ssw/cgi-bin/materials/OPED_Our_Semi-Literate_Youth.pdf

Texts and images

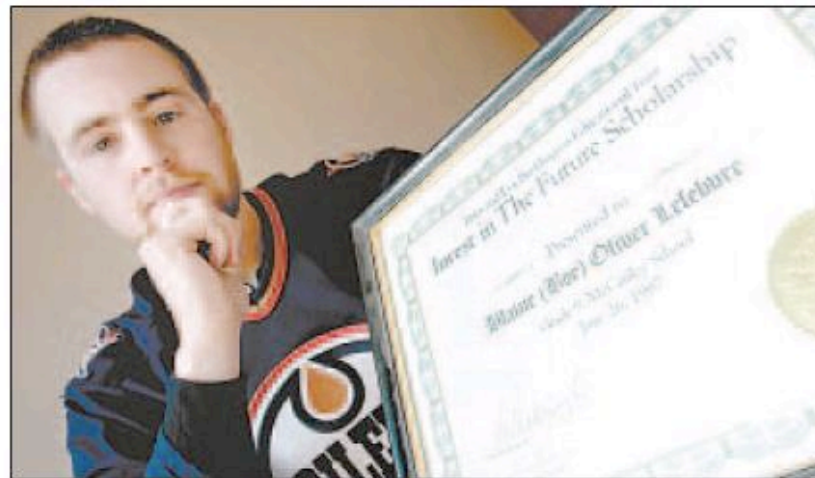
Students shut out of Pocklington scholarships

Ex-Oilers owner didn't make good on funding promises to some inner-city youth

KEITH GEREIN
Journal Staff Writer
EDMONTON

Back in 1997, Grade 9 student Boe Lefebvre received a handshake and a certificate from then Edmonton Oilers owner Peter Pocklington after attaining an 80-per-cent average at his inner-city school.

The honour was more than ceremonial. Pocklington also made a promise to Lefebvre that day — along with all his classmates who achieved an 80 — that he would provide them with a scholarship when it was time to attend college or university.



RYAN JACKSON, THE JOURNAL

Boe Lefebvre displays the certificate for a post-secondary scholarship from Peter Pocklington. More than a decade later, he is still waiting for the money.

of stocks in a company called Sonartec.

The stocks never came, and the company is now bogged down in a lawsuit.

"When you fulfil your end of the bar-

ton, there was between \$50,000 to \$100,000 left in an account with the Alberta Treasury Branch, which was to be used to administer the scholarship

Speaking for itself



Facing off at a federal-provincial conference with Finance Minister John Turner of the Trudeau Liberals. For years, Lougheed relentlessly pushed for Alberta to get more power within Confederation. He labels this photograph as “a gem. ... The picture says we were being aggressive. It speaks for itself”

If the picture speaks for itself, then why do we have captions?

Visual explanations

Find articles and other sources in library databases

18b



2

Name of database



Date of publication

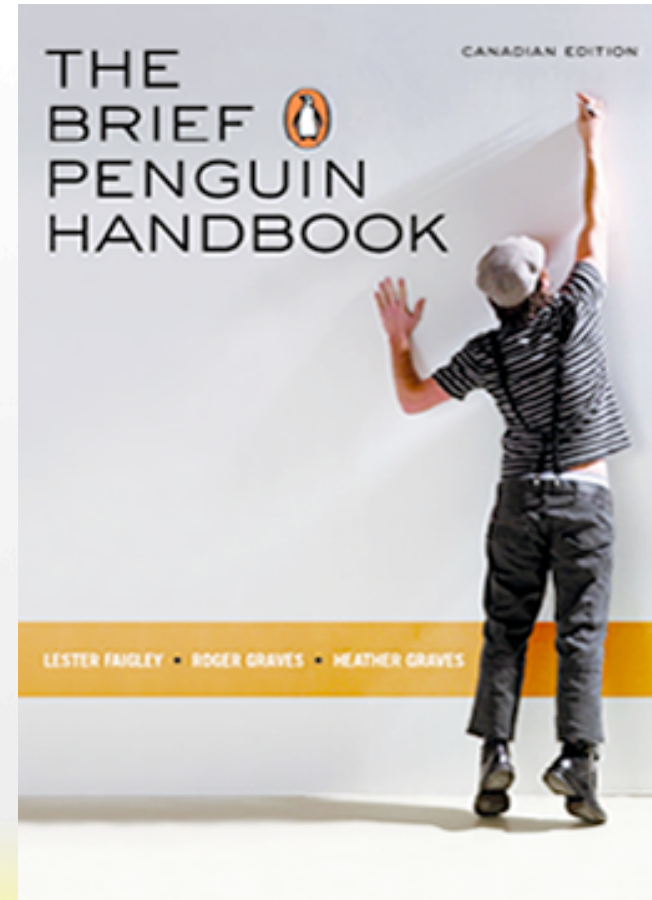
Copyright 2006 The Financial Times Limited
Financial Times (London, England)
June 17, 2006 Saturday
London Edition 1

Name of newsservice (or newspaper)

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 4
LENGTH: 388 words
HEADLINE: Addicted online gamblers to be offered help: INTERNET BETTING
BYLINE: by ERIC TESSARON
BODY:
A website will launch next week to curb online betting by gamblers who fear they may be addicted.
Internet gamblers will be able to sign up to the Global Self Exclusion Database website, which will prevent them from opening an account with an online gaming site.
The launch comes at a time of sharp growth in UK online gambling. Its audience has grown almost 50 per cent in the past year, with 10m users visiting a gambling website in the three months to April, according to Nielsen Net Ratings.
Partyspin, an online gaming site, said earlier this year that its first-quarter revenues rose by 54 per cent to Dollars 342.6m (Pounds 135m), after record numbers signed up to play poker.
During the second half of England's World Cup game against Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday, nearly a quarter of a million fans visited sports and gambling websites.
Empire, the publishing group behind PM, the 'lads' magazine, and Corset Gaming yesterday announced that they would launch an online casino on PM.com.
While gamblers are predominantly men, more women are signing up for online gambling services - females now accounted for 40 per cent of the total, said Nielsen Net Ratings.
According to GamCare, the gambling charity, a quarter of addicts using the charity's online message forum are female. Women represented only 2 per cent of its counseling clients in 2000. This grew to 10 per cent last year.
The overall number of people contacting GamCare's forum has also been increasing, with more than 40,000 people visiting the site in the three months to December.
The Global Self Exclusion Database is developed by a US ID verification company called Aristotle, backed by Rupert Murdoch and Hambrecht, the US financial services group, and will be launched on Tuesday.
About 80 per cent of gambling sites licensed in the UK use Aristotle's ID verification system.
Should an individual whose name is on the list attempt to open an account with a participating gaming site, the database will block the user's access to the site.
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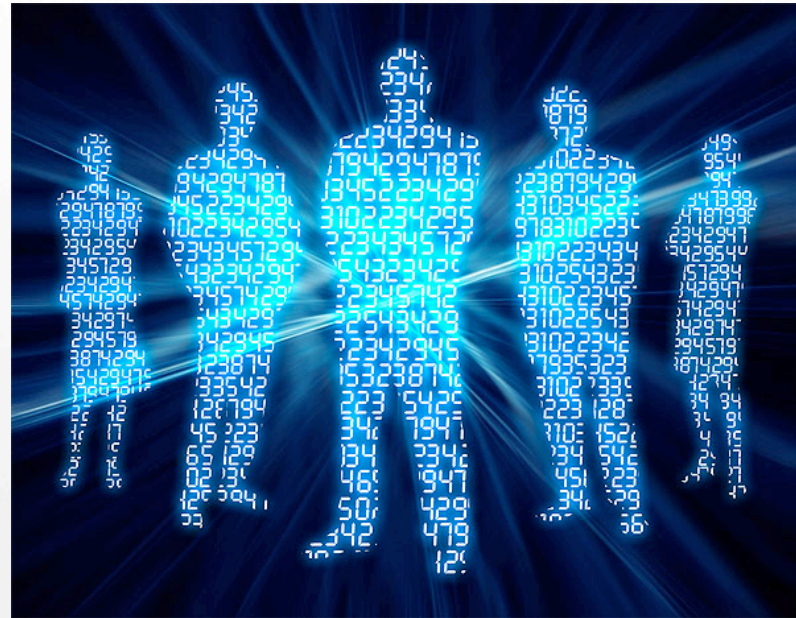
Title of article

FIGURE 18.3 Citing a database article from LexisNexis Academic



New technologies, new students

- Texts and images interact in complex ways
- For our students, however, there has always been a WWW, people have always had cell phones



www.ci.yuma.az.us/news_1939.htm

Digital natives/net generation

- Want to learn skills explicitly
- These students assert that it is **not enough** to trust that writing abilities will be developed tacitly
- NSSE –focus on engagement, active learning



We're turtles, they're hares

Marc Prensky on **"How Digital Natives Think Differently"**

[Twitch Speed vs. Conventional Speed](#)

[Parallel vs. Linear Processing](#)

[Random Access vs. Linear Thinking](#)

[Graphics First vs. Text First](#)

[Connected vs. Stand Alone](#)

[Active vs. Passive](#)

[Payoff vs. Patience](#)

[Fantasy vs. Reality](#)

[Technology as Friend not Foe](#)

Technology as Friend vs. Technology as Foe

Finally, "digital immigrants" perceive technology as something to be feared tolerated or at best harnessed to one's purpose. Digital natives perceive computers as their friend. Whether working, playing, relaxing or communicating, younger learners actively search out ways to use technology to construct a new cognitive environment.

Instructions: Roll over text on left

<http://coe.sdsu.edu/eet/articles/digitalnatives/index.htm>

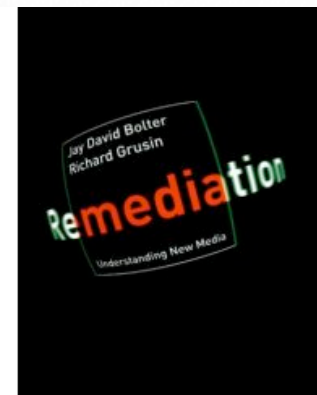
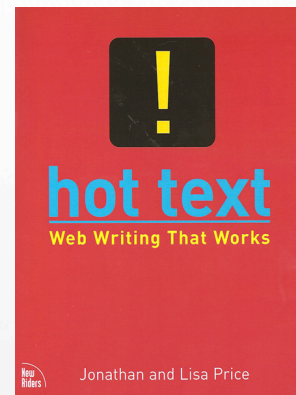
What does it all add up to?

- Writing pedagogy intersects with these new students and the new demands for interactive or engaged learning
- Writing as new media—blogs, MySpace, MSN
- Graphic novels



Hot Text

- Writing for the web remediates (Bolter and Grusin's term) writing in print
- Images are seen as “authentic” and “immediate”
- The look/interface of print newspapers has been changed by the advent of web-based versions of the same paper



Where are we now?

- Text/image is the norm, not the exception
- Students(as writers) need to **design information**, not just word-process essays/documents
- Interface design (visual design) affects whether or not documents get read and how well they are understood



Paper and online remediate each other

Print



Online



Edmonton Journal

Digital

The screenshot displays a digital edition of the Edmonton Journal. The main content area features a large article titled "Harper unveils climate aid fund" with a sub-headline "What used to be band's pipelines now criss-crossed by pipelines". To the right is a "Table of Contents" menu listing sections such as FRONT PAGE, WORLD, CANADA, CITY PLUS, BUSINESS, OPINION, LETTERS, and CLASSIFIED. The interface includes a navigation bar at the top with "A1" labels, a sidebar with "Thumbnails", and a bottom toolbar with various icons for navigation and zooming. A footer note reads "Click page to zoom in / Click article title to open in text view".

Web

The screenshot shows the Edmonton Journal website in a web browser. At the top, there is a banner for "HELP SOLVE ERIN'S MURDER NEWS" airing on OTV at 6:00 pm. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links for "local classifieds", "jobs", "cars", "obituaries", "celebrating", "shopping", "homes", and "dating". The main header features the "EDMONTON JOURNAL" logo, a search bar, and the date "Monday, October 20, 2008". The content area is divided into several sections: "Wayne Gretzky Giant Medallion Collection" starting on October 24th, "Bye-bye Sportex" with a photo of a demolition site, and "Latest from The Journal" listing various news items. A "BlogJam" section on the right features a post by Elizabeth Withey. The bottom of the page includes a "National & World News" section and a "Click Here to view our Pre-Owned Vehicles!" advertisement.