

RWS 100  
Fall 2016  
Caro Raedeker-Freitas

### **Prompt for Essay Three: Researching, Synthesizing, and Joining the Conversation**

**Proposal and/or Annotated Bibliography due:** Monday, 11/21

**Rough draft due/Peer Review Workshop:** Monday, 12/5

**Final draft due:** Wednesday, 12/14

**Length:** 7-8 pages (not including Works Cited)

For this essay, you will select a point of difference, disagreement, or connection between Boyd, Thompson, and Carr that interests you. You will use this point of intersection to launch your own argument or contribution to this debate. You can support your argument in one of two ways (or both, if you feel ambitious):

- 1) By using three additional articles (including at least one from a scholarly journal) that help you make your case, OR
- 2) By systematically collecting data from people you know as a kind of study.

If you intend to use additional sources, you will submit an **annotated bibliography** outlining the arguments of each along with a short **proposal**. If you intend to collect your own data, you will submit a **proposal** outlining your methodology. This first assignment is worth 30 points and must be approved before the rough draft of your final essay is submitted. In either case, you will use this support to advance and bolster your position.

Your paper should also explain how your argument adds to the “conversation.” That is, you should explain how your paper extends, illustrates, clarifies, complicates or qualifies an issue or question taken up by the Thompson, Carr, and Boyd.

Discussing what others have said (what “they say”) necessarily includes some evaluation of the texts. Your position may be that the authors’ arguments are effective in different ways, that one argument is superior to the others, or that all contain significant shortcomings. Your main task, however, is to add something to the conversation by drawing on evidence from other texts or by collecting or curating data from people you know. Finally, you will discuss how your own position extends, complicates, illustrates, challenges or qualifies one (or more) of the arguments other authors have made, and indicate why your contribution is significant.