Thompson, Carr, and boyd: Points of Difference, Disagreement, or Connection

Potential Research Topics:
- Cultural/societal consequences of digital life (group cognition, knowledge production, public thinking)
- Consequences of digital life on the individual (individual cognition, knowledge production, opportunity and access)
- Digital access and/or inequality (age, education, socioeconomic status, race, gender, etc.)
- Writing and researching in the digital age
- Critical digital literacy (what is it? who has it? how do you cultivate it?)
- Digital tools and/or platforms (Google, Wikipedia)
- The idea of the "digital native" (complicate, extend, defend, or challenge this idea)

Proposal and/or Annotated Bibliography: Due Monday, 11/21 (30 points)
Option #1: Entering the conversation supporting your own argument
- Identify your research topic
- Write six annotated bibliography entries: one each for Thompson, Carr, and boyd, and one for each of your three supporting sources
  - For your three supporting sources, at least one must be a scholarly article from an academic journal. The other two may be from popular, yet reputable, publications (*Wired, New York Times, The Atlantic*, etc.)
- In a sentence or two, describe your own argumentative position in relation to Thompson, Carr, and boyd, supported by your additional sources.

Option #2: Constructing your own argument using collected data
- Identify your research topic
- Write three annotated bibliography entries: one each for Thompson, Carr, and boyd
- Write a paragraph-length proposal describing how you will collect your data.
  - Pose a research question: what are you trying to learn from this data?
  - Describe your study (focus groups, one-on-one interviews, surveys)
  - Explain how you propose to collect and interpret this data
  - Describe your study participants (classmates, friends, parents and older relatives) and sample size

Imagine you're hosting a dinner party and have invited Thompson, Carr, and boyd. You bring up your research topic during dinner. What does each of them have to say about this topic? Perhaps not all of the three authors address this topic directly—you may have make some inferences or get creative. For instance, if you want to make the argument that digital natives do exist, you might write about Carr's descriptions of his own changing relationship to the digital as an example of what it means to be a "digital immigrant." If Carr's digital experiences are representative of the "digital immigrant," perhaps there also exists a set of experiences representative of the "digital native." Alternatively, one of the authors might not get at your research topic at all. Both Thompson and Carr, for example, say very little directly about digital access and inequality. In fact, their arguments seem to assume equal access to technology. That assumption is in itself significant.

Specific Research Topic:		
Author	Author's contribution to conversation about topic	Relationship with other two texts (*extends, illustrates, challenges, complicates*)
Thompson		
Carr		
boyd		

The anatomy of an Annotated Bibliography entry:
1) Works Cited entry
2) 1-2 sentences describing the author's project
3) 1-2 sentences describing the author's argument
4) 1-2 sentences evaluating/assessing the text (how important/thorough/limited is it?)
5) 1-2 sentences describing how the text relates to your own research topic and/or argumentative position

Skeleton Sample:
In <u>article</u>, <u>author</u> *explores/explains/considers* <u>topic.</u> S/he argues that <u>main argument</u>, in order to <u>purpose</u>. This text *is valuable because/offers insight into/contains significance shortcomings* because <u>reason</u>. <u>Author's claim about research topic</u> *relates/applies to/informs* my own research and/or argumentative position because <u>reason</u>.