

## **Distinction and Signification**

### **Introduction to Communication Studies**

**Date Due:** Your paper must be posted at least 36 hours before your conference time on your conference's designated bulletin board. We will be happy to provide comments on drafts during office hours but not over email.

**Relevant Readings:** Bourdieu and Straw

**Purpose and Particulars:** Please see the assignment sheet entitled "Conference Papers."

**Background:** These authors are concerned with the ways in which people use media to affiliate themselves with groups and to distinguish themselves from others.

**Task:**

1. Pick a case where people distinguish themselves using media; OR pick an artifact that represents that kind of distinction. The narrower, the better: for example a particular article on pitchfork media (rather than the whole site), a particular item of clothing (rather than a label) or a particular CD (rather than CDs in general).
2. Describe your event or artifact and the ways in which it is used in (or represents) a process of cultural distinction. What is it supposed to signify? Are there clear oppositional or negotiated readings?
3. Apply at least once concept, idea or proposition from the relevant readings to your case and/or artifact.

**Tips:** The paper doesn't need to go in the order of the assignment. The strongest papers often integrate the discussion of the reading with the discussion of the example.