

Who Are You, Really?

Introduction to Communication Studies

Date Due: Your paper must be posted at least 24 hours before your conference time on your conference's designated bulletin board and a paper copy is due at the beginning of your conference. We will be happy to provide comments on drafts during office hours but not over email.

Relevant Readings: Goffman, boyd, Couldry

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

Background: All of these authors are concerned with the conscious and unconscious ways people construct themselves through communication.

Task:

1. Pick a communicative activity, act or performance where a person reveals (or appears to reveal) some aspect of their "true" self through self-presentation. The narrower, the better: for example a particular person's page on a social networking site (rather than the site in general), a particular incident in an episode of a reality show, etc.
2. Describe your activity, performance or act and explain how it is used in the construction of a persona. Is it supposed to be an "authentic" self-disclosure? A stylized performance for a specific group or an act of constructing a persona? Something else?
3. Apply at least once concept, idea or proposition from the relevant readings to your activity, act, or performance.

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.