In your early projects for this class, there was an emphasis on where technologically embodied writing happens on campus. Chalkboards, sidewalks, and notebooks all exist in physical space and can be plotted on a map. Typewriters are also scattered across campus.

This final project for the class is an examination of less easily mapped writing technologies. As this project is coordinated with the EOTU, you will be focusing on writing that takes place "on campus"—but only figuratively, as what you will explore is online composition.

Topics of inquiry include:

- facebook, myspace, and other social software
- instant messaging
- email
- message boards
- text messaging
- others?

Part I

Find a focused and narrow enough topic and get it approved by Spencer. If you want to study facebook, for instance, you'll need to focus on something like wall postings, or images, or the field "relationship status." Keep it narrow. Looking at myspace on the whole is too broad of a topic for a project of this kind. Topic approval is an informal process: chat face-to-face, over email, or via IM.

We will need coverage over all of the topics listed above, so you may not get your first choice of a research topic.

Part II

As you did before, contact at least two "users" of this technology, interview them, and observe their use of the technology in action. Document all that you can and preserve the anonymity of your research subjects. Write up your interviews (keeping the subject anonymous) using PIRA. (Link provided over email.)

Part III

Also using PIRA, compose two additional pieces of writing: a critical analytic essay about your findings including citations to references found by PIRA; a reflective essay about writing with PIRA in comparison to several of the other writing technologies you have used this semester.