Identifying the Theme and artifacts:

As I progress through my college career my research and experience online has led me to distrust in online news sources. As a young person growing up in the information age, I have become accustomed to learning about current events through online news sources. This is augmented in college, as I find my news on the Internet more than I watch news on TV. I was taught, at a young age, how to find information on the Internet. I was taught to find reputable sources for my research. This lesson is a warning that not everything can be trusted on online news websites. The Internet has a diverse range of information available to millions of people across the world, but one can’t be naïve in its exploration. In my own research and personal life I have been lead astray by media sources, whether it be a major news station or a hoax website. Before my negative experiences I trusted any online news sources that looked reputable, but since I have become very precautious when looking for information on the Internet.

In my portfolio I will investigate deeper into this issue of lack of trust in news media. Using my own personal experiences as well as scholarly discussions on the topic. I will use key sources in my paper, hereon called artifacts, to focus the discussion and reflection of my final portfolio. My personal artifacts will be my Worldview, Man with a Movie Camera, Babel paper, Wadjda paper, and my Country Report on Venezuela. Other artifacts include the French Model Commercial, U.S Distrust in the Media Hits a New High (Morales), Noam Chomsky’s Manufacturing
I will use my own sources to define how my life has been affected by distrust in the media. I will use the outside sources to explain how this growing distrust is affecting my view of the world, and how it affecting my view of online news sources. I will tie all of the sources together in my final reflective essay where I will define the lesson I have learned through this reflection, and how I will move forward after realizing those lessons.

My artifacts will be used to support my reflection and aid in demonstrating the relevancy of that reflection. My artifact of my Worldview will support and discuss my initial worldview. As well as how, throughout college, online news representation has caused it to change. The film *Man with a Movie Camera* directed by Dziga Vertov is a Russian film of daily life in Russia. The film will help demonstrate the news media’s control of information in world news. My perception of the foreign country has always been tainted by the news media’s bias, and after viewing the film my perception has changed. *Babel* is a multicultural film directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu that I wrote a paper for in World Through Film. *Babel* is about the miscommunication between global news medias, and how it affects people. I will be reflecting on how the film caused me to reflect on my own observations of corruption in news media. *Wadjda* is a Saudi Arabian film directed by Haifaa al-Mansour. Wadjda is about a Saudi Arabian girl growing up in a conservative country. This film will support my theme of news media’s misrepresentation of world issues. I had a previous misconception of Saudi Arabian
culture, and after the film I realized that the news media had caused it. My last personal artifact is my country report on Venezuela. The research paper led me to further distrust media sources, especially on political issues. I will be using the artifacts to discuss my personal experience with news media bias, and my distrust that has spawned from it.

My outside artifacts will be used to support my opinion that distrusting news media is an intelligent action to take in today’s global society. First, I will discuss the juvenile nature of America’s distrust of the news media. I will use the French Model Commercial to play off of the popular topic, this will force my discussion to delve deeper into my chosen topic. Then, I will augment the humor with a politically themed article on America’s distrust the news media (Morales). To supplement this I will also use Noam Chomsky’s documentary, Manufacturing Consent. The documentary is about the news media and the forces that drive it. Referencing the film, I will discuss my personal development of skepticism of new media sources. Once the idea that distrust in news is established, I will go on to discuss what is online news and is it factual? I will use my artifacts of Banksy Hoax and The Huffington Post to discuss and reinforce my opinions and reflections on this topic. The Huffington Post is a popular user contributed online news media platform where I have often been mislead by its unverified news articles. I will use these artifacts of news media bias to analyze how my personal skepticism developed, and to gather insight on the subject.
Through these two perspectives I will explore and reflect on my distrust of online news media representation. I will use this exploration as a time of reflection so that I may find a way to move forward from this personal mistrust toward accepting the bias new media bias. I will then move forward and devise a methodical way to explore and research news media online. My college experience has influenced me to believe in the bias of news media through the thought provoking assignments, films, and personal experience.

As I go about the reflection process I will be using the Kolb cycle process of referencing concrete experiences, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization, and my own active experimentation. This methodology will help me focus and delve deeper in the topic at hand. The title of my thesis will be ‘An Education of Uncertainty’, which references how my experience as a college student has lead me to become more uncertain and mistrusting of the world around me.

Professor Jeff Balmer, School of Architecture, Assistant Professor to the Honors College, has agreed to be my thesis advisor. Professor Eric Sauda, School of Architecture, has agreed to be my thesis reader.

Tentative Timeline

I plan to meet with my thesis advisor once a week for at least an hour during the spring semester. At my initial thesis advisor meeting I plan to have a detailed outline ready to discuss. As the semester goes on I will work on sections of my paper, as outlined above, in order to have my finished first draft by the end of February. I will then work on making the paper cohesive through drafts of the final paper. The final revision will take place at the end of March. The website will also
be finalized at the end of March. This will give me enough time and preparation for my defense to be on April 10th.

November 4<sup>th</sup>- Have a final revision of my proposal draft ready to be revised by my thesis adviser and other reviewers.

November 10<sup>th</sup>- Turn in my Application for Candidacy

January 12<sup>th</sup>- the first meeting with thesis advisor for the spring semester. I should have an outline of my final paper, as well as ideas for the website.

January 19<sup>th</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with thesis advisor, discuss the thesis portfolio

January 26<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with thesis advisor, as well as have a draft of the first four pages of the final thesis portfolio paper

February 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with thesis advisor, revise the portfolio, and discuss the website

February 9<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with thesis advisor, have a draft of the next four pages of the portfolio paper

February 16<sup>th</sup>- revise the portfolio and discuss necessary changes

February 23<sup>rd</sup>- submit a revision of the entire portfolio as well as four new pages, revise the website accordingly

March 2<sup>nd</sup>- spring break

March 9<sup>th</sup>- Finish writing the remaining section of the final portfolio and update the website

March 16<sup>th</sup>- Update and revise the final draft, make sure everything is cohesive

March 23<sup>rd</sup>- finalize website and paper

March 30<sup>th</sup>- make final presentation

April 6<sup>th</sup>- revise and practice final presentation

April 10<sup>th</sup>- present defense
Bibliography

*Babel*. Paramount Home Entertainment, 2007. DVD.

*Chelovek S Kinoapparatom*. Kino International Corp., 1929. DVD.


*Wadjda*. Razor Film Produktion GmbH. 2013. DVD.