

CMS 100: 24 Hours Paper

Step 1: Spend 24 hours without using networked computing. This includes but is not limited to the internet, LANs, ATMs, most of the functions on your cell phone, your Fitbit, etc. etc. etc. You are welcome to go without other forms of media for an even purer experience, but that is not required for the assignment.

Step 1A: Take notes as you do this. The notes can be in any form that helps you remember the course of the day, especially anything unusual that occurs, anything that's unexpectedly normal, and your feelings about the assignment.

Step 2: In class, we will begin working on how to turn your notes into a paper. Kim Vaeth will lead a workshop. Remember, writing is about trying out different structures (which correspond to different ways of thinking about your data) and learning through the process of revision.

Step 3: Write a short (four page) paper about the experiment. You may come to what conclusions you wish, but make sure you come up with a thesis somewhere in there. If you are stuck figuring out the “so what” of the assignment, consider the following questions: What did you learn about the function(s) the network plays in your daily life? What function(s) can be duplicated without the use of the network, and which are inherent capabilities of the network? How does this relate to stereotypes about Millennials? To fears that “the internet makes you dumb”?

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

CMS.100 Introduction to Media Studies
Fall 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.