

Second Paper Topics

Requirements

1. Please write a five-page paper in response to **ONE** of the topics below. The text should be double-spaced. The paper is due by 7 PM five days after Lec #13.
2. Your paper must be computer-processed. Please give your paper a title, and write your name on the back of the last page. Do not write your name elsewhere on the paper. All pages should be numbered. Refer to the accompanying handout, posted on the stellar web site, for further editing suggestions.
3. Citations to texts read in this course should be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to a passage on page 13 of Long's *Book Clubs*, indicate this in the following manner at the end of your sentence, after the period: (Long, 13) Full citations to any work not assigned in class should be made in footnote or endnote form.

Topics

1. Does the advent of digital technology today constitute a communications revolution as significant as the one that some scholars believe occurred as a result of the introduction of the printing press in Europe ca. 1450? Please consider evidence from either Elizabeth Long's *Book Clubs*, or Pablo Boczkowski's *Digitizing the News*, in your response.
2. The time is the present. Imagine that you are a medieval illuminator, an ancient Inkan *kipukamayuc*, Johannes Gutenberg, a continental typesetter from the first half of the sixteenth century, or a chapbook reader from seventeenth-century England. You have been miraculously resurrected, placed in front of a computer terminal, and, after suitable training, instructed to explore the internet. Record your responses to this activity in the form of a journal entry or a letter to long-deceased acquaintance.