

Editor's Note

The best research papers in Writing 300 are the records of a journey, a map painstakingly drawn of a previously uncharted territory. In our courses, we do our best to prepare students for this journey, offering them provisions and lists and procedures. These preparations are crucial, and yet they are not enough unless we also first encourage students to set out for the most rewarding territories. Full engagement with such a journey is often the difference between a research paper that makes it into *The York Scholar* and a paper that does not. While much of what we teach in a research writing course must be craft—how to build a paper out of sources and the reflections one can make upon them—we cannot neglect encouraging curiosity and engagement.

Gourav Bhattacharyya sets out to explore the new digital territory of messages in the first paper in this volume, “The Abbreviated Message.” Building on Marshall McLuhan’s concept that medium alters message, Bhattacharyya asks how the shift to increasingly digital, constantly updated modes of transmission affects the messages we send, read, and receive. His paper centers on the questions of what happens as we become conditioned to constantly snacking on small bits of information. Will this lead to new ways of thinking, or will we end up unable to think deeply?

Odaine Huggins in “The Underrepresentation of Blacks in the Accounting Profession” looks at the question of why the percentage of African Americans in the accounting field is disproportionately low. Tracing the interplay of stereotypes and historical prejudices, Huggins examines how assumptions about ethnicity and roles shape the kinds of jobs blacks both expect and are expected to hold in the United States. Huggins sketches out a new route for colleges and accounting firms, recommending that they take on more responsibility for mentoring and preparing African American students for the profession.

In the last paper, “Does the United States Have the Moral Authority to Criticize China’s Human Rights?” Kaamashri Latcha contrasts human rights abuses in China with areas of human rights concerns in the United States. Latcha examines some of the human rights problems the United States faces, most notably the ongoing existence of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay and the

disproportionate amount of gun violence in the United States. Latcha ends by asking whether the United States is standing on firm ground when it offers criticisms of China's human rights record.

The artwork on the cover of this edition of the *York Scholar* is an untitled collage by York College sophomore David Baquero. The work was created in Professor Melanie Vote's Painting I class in Spring 2012.

We hope that you, too, find the journey that these essays take you on a stimulating one.

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