

Item No.1

Contributor: Kyle Blythe
Item Title: Copy Pasta
Item Category: Genre
Semester/year: Fall, 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description:

A cypypasta is a block of text that is copied and pasted to different places. It is similar to a meme. They quite often tell a story or are a long rant intended to insult.

Points of Interest:

Sometimes cypypastas are written with the intention of being a cypypasta, and sometimes they are just something that somebody wrote which was then taken and made into a cypypasta. Copy pastas are most commonly found on forums or comments sections of websites.

Links:

Two reddit pages can be found below that have a very large number of cypypastas archived.

<http://www.reddit.com/r/cypypasta/>

<http://www.reddit.com/r/circlejerkcypypasta>

Additional Information:

They seem to be used most often in a joking manner. Creative aspects appear in a couple different manners. The first creative point is when it is written. Also, when to use a cypypasta plays a large role as well in the creative aspect. Finally, the most important creative part I found was when a copy pasta was taken and then words were replaced with some that fit the situation or audience better.

Item No.2

Contributor: Kyle Blythe
Item Title: Charity Videos
Item Category: Genre

Semester/year: Fall, 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description:

Charity videos usually appear on social media sites like Facebook or Twitter. The general way they work is that a person records themselves or has somebody record them doing some sort of unpleasant activity. Before it they say they are doing “the (BLANK) challenge.” They will then challenge somebody to either do the challenge they are about to perform or they must donate to a charity. Once a challenge has been completed the person can then challenge other people.

Points of Interest:

The two most notable ones that I saw were the ALS ice bucket challenge and the cold water challenge. The ice bucket challenge became more famous and resulted in many celebrities contributing as well. One thing that was interesting was how they spread. The cold water challenge came first. MY roommate began seeing on his Facebook people from his hometown doing it. After about a week and half, I began seeing people on my Facebook doing it as well.

Links:

A Facebook page that has a large collection of them is found at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ALS-Ice-Bucket-Challenge/1482466965326744>

Additional Information:

As far as I ever saw, nobody was ever called out on not donating or not making a video. People would challenge each other, but never required proof that somebody did what they were challenged to do. It essentially went on an honor system that if a video wasn't made, you made a donation.

A creative element existed in how the videos were made. Some people tried to get tricky and have scripts or make the video entertaining in addition to being evidence that they did the challenge.

They were most definitely performances as well. This actually was something that I saw people argue was a negative aspect of the challenges. It was argued that people were doing it for a selfish reason and to have a video of them pretending to help a charity when in fact they did not actually donate.

Item No.3

Contributor: Kyle Blythe
Item Title: Webcomics
Item Category: Genre
Semester/year: Fall, 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description:

A webcomic is just a comic or cartoon that is published on the internet.

Points of Interest:

One difference between a webcomic and a comic that is printed in a magazine or a newspaper is that the people that view a webcomic go that website with the sole intention of viewing it. That means that webcomics often have very specific audiences that they cater to. <http://xkcd.com/> is a webcomic series that specializes in physics, math, and science jokes that often go over my head, for example.

Another difference is that the readers of the webcomic often have a greater amount of interaction with the writer. Most webcomics have a forum for fans to discuss the latest issue. The writers will also often interact with fans through that forum or through another venue like twitter.

Links:

The following webcomic has been running from 2003 until now with a high viewer count and is currently at issue #2853.

<http://questionablecontent.net/>

The next is an example of a specialized sort of webcomic.

<http://xkcd.com/>

Additional Information:

Webcomics have a creative point for the creators. They also have a sort of creative aspect when the community gathers to discuss the webcomic and what they think will develop. The webcomic xkcd linked above is often linked to in forums to help explain complex materials.