Item No. 1

Contributor: Jordan Miller
Item Title: Status
Item Category: Venues/Facebook
Semester/year: Fall, 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description: A status is one of the most fundamental components to Facebook (FB). The objective of a status is to be able to share anything and everything with your FB friends, as anyone who you are friends with on FB can see your status. It is typical to see a status exclaiming a thought someone's had, a political ideology, perhaps a song or poem lyric. The idea of a status was created to encourage this trend of wanting to share with the rest of the world.

Points of Interest: When Mark Zuckerberg and the FB team designed the status component of FB, there were no rules assigned to how to make a status or any limitations/constraints put on what you can and cannot make a status. Nor, have any official limitations or constraints been put on today. Yet, we have adopted this extremely interesting tradition of creating our own social constraints regarding social media that we hold each other accountable to follow. Statuses on FB are a great example of this. It would be considered obnoxious and excessive to make several statuses in a day, especially if they are things like updates on what you are doing. As well, there is a negative outlook on FB users putting hashtags (#) in a FB status. The reason behind this is because since # originated on the venue Twitter, people believe hashtags should stay on twitter and not be apart of FB. It would not be uncommon to see if someone posted a status with a hashtag, for someone to comment below it something along the lines of, "save the hashtags for twitter". What's fascinating about this social constraint is that it actually has evolved over time through some help by FB so that currently the mentality about hashtags has done a 180, and now they are acceptable and encouraged. FB cultivated this evolution of our social constraint by making the hashtags clickable so they serve as a link to any status made about the hashtag you click on, therefore when FB legitimatized the ability to use hashtags on FB, they were able to turn people on to the idea of using hashtags consistently throughout FB. The folkloric element of this online venue comes from the creativity that people have with making statuses. There is no such thing as an invalid status, but statuses do give people a FB identity, so whether you want to be known as the person who posts political ideologies, or religious ideologies, or a good knock knock joke every day is entirely up to you. You shape how others view you on FB. When talking about the Folk group involved within this cyberlore, Trevor Blank in "Folk Culture in the Digital Age" nails it on the head. One cannot hold the original definition of a folk group to cyberlore, if we tried to do this, nothing on the

Internet would qualify, as folklore and folklore soon would cease to exist. Instead, we have to evolve our understanding of folk group, and realize that it can be anyone with a similarity whether it be a similar ideology, a similar personality, perhaps the similarity is that you are just virtually "friends." But while this seems extremely ambiguous and vague, that's just the point, when folk group's are taken viral, they exponentially enlarge because the community is just that much bigger, but the rules are still unwritten allowing natural folklore to occur, and the cyberlore still originates from a place of pure creativity.

Item No. 2

Contributor: Jordan Miller
Item Title: Liking Vs. Commenting
Item Category: Venues/Facebook
Semester/year: Fall, 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description: Liking is represented on Facebook with an icon of a "thumbs up." If you deem something "likeable" simply meaning whatever you saw resonated with you in a way where you would like to show that you enjoyed what you saw, you are able to click this thumbs up and give the image you saw a "like." People are then able to see the names of everyone who liked an image as well. Commenting on the other hand, is something you can do to reply to a status, photo, video, or prior comment. There are no limits on the length of a comment, nor are there any rules about what you can and cannot comment about.

Points of Interest: Again the most interesting part of liking vs. commenting are the social constraints that we have put on ourselves, and held one another to. When it comes to liking, it is considered in very poor taste to like any of your own material that you have shared on FB. Whether it is a status, a photo, a video, or a comment, it would be considered taboo to like your own work. On the other side, we have commenting. Commenting is different because it is not at all bad form to comment on your own photo, video, or status as long as your comment refrains from being braggadocios in a sincere way. Where we constrain ourselves in terms of comments, is that it could be considered annoying if the same person excessively comments on the same image. There is not a concrete number on what qualifies you to be in the range of "too many comments" but I would say as a rule of thumb, if you comment on one

image over five times, that is most likely considered annoying. Again we experience the folkloric element of creativity through both liking and commenting. Liking allows you to express in a positive manner how you feel about something, and you have the ability to express yourself by liking things that resonate with who you are. Commenting provides even more creativity with the different ways you can comment, in terms of sarcasm, joking, seriousness, thoughtfulness, there is almost no wrong way to comment in terms of your content.

Item No. 3

Contributor: Jordan Miller
Item Title: Photos
Item Category: Venues/FB
Semester/year: Fall, 2014
Instructor: John McDowell

Item Description: Photos on Facebook are one of Facebook's many ways to allow all of your friends to see what you have been up to. You are able to upload a photo that is saved on your computer, you can air drop a photo to FB meaning post it to FB instantly via a smart phone after taking the picture, and there are other methods of posting pictures to FB as well.

Points of Interest: When we talk about FB photos, there are two main categories to note, these are profile pictures, and regular pictures. A profile picture is the first image someone sees when he or she pulls up your profile on FB. It is the equivalent of the visual first impression, and if anything it is much more judgmental then a face to face first impression, because there is only physical appearance to judge by when looking at a picture. This has caused profile pictures in many FB users situations to turn into a vanity shot, where as other FB users depending on their personalities and how they wish to convey themselves might use a professional headshot, or business centered photograph. Regular photographs on the other hand can be of anything and everything. This is where the folkloric element of this cyberlore comes in, because once again as a trend has developed through my other items of cyberlore, FB uses this feature to allow you to construct how you want to portray yourself to others online. You can portray yourself in a professional matter by making sure all of your photos shed a positive light on yourself. Someone can also post various pictures with friends at parties to show that they are fun, and know how to have a good time. There are no literal rules when it comes to posting photos or profile pictures, simply the ability to be creative and choose how you wish to be seen.