

COMM 601

Short paper #2

Communication and My Peer Cohort

This paper asks you to construct an essay that describes your “communication world” during the year of your birth, and then reflects on potential conceptual connections between your current communication abilities, communication preferences, and communication values and qualities of your communication world during the year you were born.

A description of your communication world in the year of your birth should include, but is not limited to, descriptions of: major topics being discussed at home, media of the day (e.g., TV, radio, film, etc.), news of the day, stories that you were read, the music being played, the messages from whoever had contact with you, the toys, and so on. Of course (as you were pre-linguistic), this means you will have to do some interviewing and archival research to paint a picture of the communication going around you when you arrived. And as we talked about with socio-biological theories, some effects on human communication development are proximal (first order) and some are distal (second order) and you will need to attempt to sort out what might have been in your immediate communication environment and what else was outside that might have shaped the environment as you think about connecting the past to your communication today.

The length of the paper is up to you, but I think that constructing a table might be a useful way to summarize these various elements and then write about the results.

Suggested Sites:

<http://Whathappenedinmybirthyear.com>

<http://dmarie.com/timecap/step1.asp>

<http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/yearsanddecades.html>