

English 149: Networked and Multimodal Composition
Spring 2015
Instructor: Ben Bolling

Top 5 of 2014

Date Assigned: 1/8/15

Date Due: before class on 1/13/15

Assignment Description:

What were your top five texts of 2014? What songs, films, books, TV shows, websites, and other media got your attention during the last calendar year? Why? Keep in mind that I'm asking you to identify your **favorite** texts, not necessarily the texts you think were the "best of" or "most significant" (whatever that means!).

- 1) **Join the course Tumblr page as a contributor.** I will circulate a sign-up sheet during class on 1/8/15 to collect your email addresses and make you members of our Tumblr. If for any reason you are not able to access the Tumblr by 1/9/15, contact me as soon as possible.
- 2) **Compose a Tumblr entry in the style of six tweets.**
 - a. Title: Include your name (what you want to be called)
 - b. "Tweet" #1: In 140 characters or less, explain your overall approach/ methodology in curating your Top 5 list.
 - c. "Tweet" #2: In 140 characters or less, explain why you chose your first text. Include a link, an image, or some visual representation of the text in your tweet. Note: links, images, etc. **do not** count toward your 140-character limit.
 - d. "Tweets" #3-6: Follow the guidelines for "Tweet #2."
- 3) **Tag your post with "#top52014"**

Sample (please see my post on the class Tumblr page for more formatting ideas):

If taste has value, then the best I can afford is "poor."

<http://youtu.be/kQwBKmYj5WI> Worth the 14-year wait. D'Angelo's *Black Messiah* has quickly become one of my favorite R&B/Soul albums.

<http://serialpodcast.org> Serial is currently the most downloaded podcast in history and one of the most fascinating cultural phenomena of 2014.

<http://comicsalliance.com/tags/the-multiversity/> Grant Morrison strives to do what no one else has done before: make sense of DC Comics continuity/cosmology.

<http://youtu.be/FxXRkqXfhYM> *True Detective* has everything I love in fiction: broken but resilient characters, creepy mysteries, and stunning execution of form.

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Tennessee-Williams/> John Lahr's biography of Williams grounds the author's life in the context of Tennessee's creative production. The result is stunning and gorgeous.