Christina Ortega Week#2 3/27/14 Journal # 1

ComS 168 Journal Assignment

***Description of what prompted you to write:***

As our understanding of rhetorical criticism has progressed, an important emphasis Dr. Stoner has pointed out throughout the course has been how rhetoric serves a purpose to show how society’s interact, to generate ideas, to build a social fabric and to analyze significant problems in order to make progress. This concept comes to mind continually as we understand the different aspects of criticism as well as delve deeper into the critical models.

In Chapters 11 and 13 of Hart and Doughton, the discussion of cultural and feminist criticism prompted me think of the purpose of rhetoric and how our ability to analyze rhetoric gives us the lens to see how society’s interact, how we generate ideas, build social fabric and look at significant problems. In our textbooks, Hart and Doughton discuss the values that were present in the past and that still remain now. A lot of these values or ideas remain problematic to us as we look at the roles of women and men of various cultures in our society and ongoing stereotypes that still affect our progress.

***Linkage to other ideas, concepts, quotations, articles, etc.***

Table 11.1 in Chapter 11 is “A Catalog of American Values” listed decades ago by Minnick. Hart and Doughton state that “the cultural critic can therefore ask: To what extent do these values main relevant? While values wax and wane over the years, they only change radically after massive social upheaval because, as we stated earlier, value represent *basic life orientation* (Doughton and Hart, p 239-240).” In reading “Wanted: A Young Woman To Do” by C. Helene Barker, I experienced the sense that author was unaware of a lot of the stereotypes that she possessed within her piece. Although I did not get the sense that she was blatantly racist or against feminism, there are references to she makes to women of different cultures that point me to thinking that she has underlying stereotypes that a lot of our society still have today.

***Explain insights generated by the connections you’ve drawn about rhetorical theory or praxis or criticism; feature what you are learning***

I think this concept of our society makes rhetorical criticism crucial to our survival as scholars and as a society that strives to make progress. The ability analyze messages that carry the significant problems to be solved and create an awareness of our social construct are they key to our society making progress.