Christina Ortega Week#1 3/24/14 Journal # 2

ComS 168 Journal Assignment

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

Since the beginning of the semester, we have been collectively working together to grasp the meaning of concepts that are crucial to rhetorical criticism, as well as working to grasp the meaning of rhetorical criticism itself. As the weeks have progressed, I have felt a stronger connection to these concepts, and the ability to build on them has helped to shape the lens I hope to use in my analysis of rhetoric. As you pointed out in class, we are working to define these terms/concepts the best that we can so that we can in turn, use those concepts in our analysis. This idea seemed very abstract to me in the beginning, but I am realizing that even in our analysis of the concepts, we are practicing the type of critical thinking that is necessary to analyze rhetoric and the social implications and significance within the rhetoric.

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

We are still working to define rhetoric and criticism. Through our analysis of the various articles: Wrage, Bryant, Natanson and Fisher, we are pulling ideas for the different elements of rhetorical criticism.

As we discussed the Narrative Paradigm, the discussion of “good reasons” as discussed in Fisher’s Narration as a Human Communication Paradigm: The Case of the Public Moral Argument stimulated a lot of thought about what constitutes a good reason. We also had insight from your son, Dr. Ian Stoner that helped us arrive at an agreement as to what we believe Fisher meant when he referred to good reasons.

Our discussion of Perelman’s Communion and determining what “communion” entailed also stimulated discussion on what communion is and the purpose it serves. As Richard Graff and Wendy Winn discuss in their article “Presencing ‘Communion’ in Chaim Perelman’s New Rhetoric,” The effort to bring the theory of values together with the lore of classical rhetoric resulted in what is undoubtedly one of Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca’s most significant contributions to contemporary rhetorical theory…(Graff and Winn, p 47). When we look at communion, we look at the values of a society.

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

Our ability to analyze the very concepts that we are using in rhetorical criticism is crucial in our ability to critically analyze rhetoric. It is in the building and understanding of ideas and concepts that are so abstract that we are able to pull out social constructs that are deeply rooted in rhetoric.