Christina Ortega Week#3 4/2/14 Journal # 1

ComS 168 Journal Assignment

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

This week was our week to present the reading comments for Suddoth’s piece on hunting. I also looked into the resource packet and found an article by Carrie Crenshaw entitled *Women in the Gulf War: Toward an Intersectional Feminist Rhetorical Criticism.* This article opened my point of view of how easy it is to overlook further differences in our attempt to establish equality.

The one point that really stood out to me in this article is how the absence of presence can be an area of analysis and how this absence plays a role in rhetorical criticism. I feel we are often inclined to focus on what is presented before us, when in fact there are underlying issues that are not always apparent in what we see.

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

In her article, Crenshaw references McKerrow’s sixth principle of critical practice: “Absence is as important as presence in understanding and evaluating symbolic action…’positively marked terms ‘signify’ because of their position in relation to what is absent.” Crenshaw then explains how this absence of the presence of diverse women who served in the Gulf War made an impact on how images of women in the war were communicated to the public.

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

As a critic, and as an American citizen, I think it is crucial to be able to look further into messages and rhetoric. Many public policies are created as a response to the way we interpret the needs of our society. If our job is to recognize the social issues represented in our society, then it is important to be able to look past the information and description (as Suddoth hit the surface in her paper), and really be able to analyze how our society works.