**Instructor: Semester**

**Rhetoric 1030 Embracing Complexity News Analysis In-class Activity**

**Activity:** In *The Butterfly Mosque*, G Willow Wilson describes misrepresentations of Islam in news reports following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the effect those inaccurate portrayals had on her community. Spend some time in groups searching for news reports following the 9/11 attacks and settle on one or two representative features to analyze. Next, watch the report(s) until you feel you have accurately identified the argument(s) present — you will need to consider word choice, imagery, graphics, vocal range, etc. Then, find a more current report and compare. Where do you see similarities in terms of representation, language, and/values? Where do you see differences?

Share these reports with the class. Consider what the other groups have shared? What does this ultimately reveal about attitudes and culture in the U.S.? Where do we see growth or change? Where have attitudes stayed the same?

**Purpose:** This activity aids in our development of visual analysis skills. We are also practicing critical thinking and reading for the larger conversation. Here, we are “reading” images closely and learning to find the hidden meaning. We are also practicing our speaking skills in an informal setting.

Beyond our work in the classroom, this activity helps us to become thoughtful and empowered citizens.

**Steps for instructors:**

* ***IMPORTANT:*** *Carefully scaffold this assignment to ensure responsible analysis. It might be helpful to share a clip yourself to guide students through an example.*
* Break into groups and allow students to use devices as they search out news reports. You might offer date ranges and/or examples of shows/channels to get started. Identify a note-taker, group leader, and timekeeper.
* Assist groups as they search, watch, and analyze. (30-40 minutes)
* Share findings and news features. (30-40 minutes)

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