

“Dear Blog:” A Look at Adolescent Diary Blogs and Their Audiences

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Weblogs (blogs) are frequently updated webpages in which entries are listed in reverse chronological order. Adolescents, particularly young women (Herring, Scheidt, Bonus, & Wright, 2004), have adapted the personal diary to this new format. However unlike the paper-based adolescent diary of previous generations that primarily served as personal archives for thoughts and daily activities, blogs are publicly accessible spaces where adolescents can target their words to a variety of different external audiences. Langellier (1998, p. 210) presents five types of audiences for narrative performances, audience as: witnesses to the experiences reported upon in the story, therapists and emotional supporters of the storyteller, cultural critics commenting on the events that produced the story, narrative analysts of the systems of discourse embedded in the narrative, and observer. This talk looks at the types of adolescent diary blogs currently posted on the web and applies Langellier’s five definitions of audience to the implied and implicit audiences of adolescent diary blogs.

Reference List

Herring, S. C., Scheidt, L. A., Bonus, S., & Wright, E. (2004). Bridging the Gap: A Genre Analysis of Weblogs. In Los Alamitos: IEEE Press.

Langellier, K. M. (1998). Voiceless bodies, bodiless voices: The future of personal narrative performance. In S. J. Dailey (Ed.), *The Future of Performance Studies: Visions and Revisions* (pp. 207-213). Washington DC: National Communication Association.

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