

Peter A. Weinberg

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Statement of Interest: As a recent communication graduate, I am excited to continue my education and to take on the challenges and demands of a rigorous graduate program. Between a broad interest of human communication as a whole, and a specific interest at the intersection of communication technology and contemporary rhetoric, I hope to be able to work with like-minded faculty members to bring a unique research perspective to a prospective university.

Objective: I am seeking a program that will challenge my intellect and afford me the opportunity to strengthen and refine my knowledge and skills in the field of communication, with the long-term goal of pursuing doctoral level work and going on to teach at a university.

Overview of Qualifications: In spring 2011, at Rhode Island College, I completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication with a concentration in the Public and Professional discipline. In addition to the standard requirements of this degree, I also participated in and completed the RIC departmental honors program. This program included a two-semester long independent study and the writing of a senior thesis, both of which have well prepared me for the demands and expectations of graduate level work.

Core Strengths:

- Mastery of the English language in both the written and verbal domains.
- Experienced researcher, writer, and interpersonal communicator.
- Strong work ethic with an emphasis on attention to detail and upholding standards.
- Well practiced in delivering effective and articulate presentations.
- Self-motivated and goal-oriented with a strong sense of dedication and commitment.
- Works well individually, in group settings, as a leader, or under the direction of a supervisor.
- Possesses a well-rounded balance between creativity, logic, and critical thinking.
- Ability to meet deadlines and complete assignments according to given specifications and requirements.

Education:

Rhode Island College

Bachelor of Arts, *Communication*
Concentration, *Public and Professional Communication*
Honors, *magna cum laude*
GPA, 3.779

Providence, RI

2007-2011

Roger Williams University

Legal Studies/Creative Writing (no degree earned)

Bristol, RI

2004-2007

Related Coursework: Research Methods in Communication; Making Sense of Rhetoric; Applied Rhetorical Criticism; Critical Inquiry Into Free Speech; Vocal Improvement; Persuasion; Argumentation and Debate; Mass Media and Society.

Achievements and Awards:

- Member of Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Association Honor Society
- First Place Nominee—Rhode Island College Cap and Gown Award (2011)
- Completion of RIC Departmental Honors Program including an intensive two-semester advisor supervised independent study (2010-2011)
- Lambda Pi Eta Essay Award/Scholarship Recipient (2010)
- Completion of optional senior thesis as partial fulfillment of the RIC Departmental Honors Program (2010)
- First Place Award Winner—RIC Comm. Department Talent Contest/Grant Award (2009)

Research Interests:

- My primary research interests include modern rhetoric and the way in which contemporary communication technologies affect the rhetorical process. I would like to explore these phenomena in greater detail through specific and structured studies in rhetorical analysis. Specific topics include the rhetoric of hate groups/hate sites, the persuasion of youth, and conspiracy theorist rhetoric.
- Other research interests include youth culture and communication, wartime rhetoric, the rhetoric of figures in popular culture, critical race theory, and the rhetoric of the prohibition era.

Research Projects:

- Weinberg, Peter A. “A Critical Rhetorical Analysis of Selected White Supremacist Hate Sites: Assessments of Threat Posed to Youth.” 2011.
 - This honors thesis was submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for honors in the Department of Communication for the School of Liberal Arts at Rhode Island College.
 - Summary: Since the development of the modern Internet, the numbers and activities of online extremist groups have been steadily on the rise. This study explores the contemporary issue of online hate speech with a focus on the recruitment of youth by anti-Semitic hate groups. Through research, discussion, and a critical rhetorical analysis of selected hate sites, this paper seeks to answer the question: what is the overall threat level posed to youth by online hate groups, their members, and the messages they disseminate? This study concluded that the threat is both significant and real, and that while recruitment efforts targeted at youth are often successful, there is a lack of sufficient concrete evidence in order to justify governmental restriction. The hate speech disseminated by online hate groups, without the presence of “clear and present danger,” is almost universally protected under the First Amendment. This implication, however, suggests the need for further scholarly research.
- Weinberg, Peter A. “Impact Study: The Anti-War Rhetoric of Muhammad Ali, Born of the Vietnam Conflict.” 2010.
 - This paper was written as an impact study/research project for the four hundred level communication course Advanced Rhetorical Criticism taken during the spring semester at RIC in 2010.
 - Summary: Using Campbell and Burkholder’s *Three Stages of Rhetorical Criticism*, this paper sought to investigate the impact of Muhammad Ali’s rhetoric on the anti-war movement during the time of the Vietnam War, whether or not this

impact was felt differently by African-Americans than whites, and the impact that Ali's motivations had on the effectiveness of his rhetoric. Though difficult to substantiate to what degree, this study concluded that Ali's rhetoric not only had an impact on the anti-war movement of the Vietnam era, but has also had a lasting impact on society that is still felt today.

- Weinberg, Peter A. "Image Rights vs. Free Speech in Video Game Production." 2010.
 - This paper was written as a term paper for the four hundred level course Critical Inquiry Into Free Speech taken during the fall semester at RIC in 2010.
 - Summary: This paper examines the question of how far the First Amendment can go in protecting the new forms of expression that emerge alongside evolving technologies. Using a recent lawsuit as a frame of reference, this paper explores both sides of this contemporary issue.

Teaching Experience:

Providence Public School Department

Teacher Assistant

Providence, RI

April 2013-Present

Overview of Duties and Responsibilities:

As a teacher assistant for the PPSD, I have worked in classrooms ranging in grade level from kindergarten to sixth grade. I have worked in regular ed. classrooms as well as in the behavioral/development and autism programs as a 1:1 aide. My primary responsibilities include supporting the lead teacher in the educational and socio-emotional development of children. Specific duties vary depending on grade level, but typically include assisting with classroom management, providing one-on-one instructional reinforcement, organizing instructional materials, and correcting work.

References:

Available Upon Request