

235 Goldsworthy Hall
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Pullman WA, 99164
December 11, 2005

[REDACTED]
English 101 instructor
Washington State University
Avery Hall 344
Pullman WA, 99164

Dear [REDACTED],

Through the course of my first semester here at Washington State University I have learned and acquired many new skills. My favorite subject in school is by far English, so you can imagine my excitement while sitting in my first English 101 lecture, not knowing what was to come. As I listened and learned more about what was to be expected of me, I was anxious to get started.

I had never written on a subject matter that included and was limited to the media. I had also never had to use the MLA citation format in my papers, which protects against plagiarism, so combining the two of them all in a matter of weeks to write to my potential was, to say the least, a challenge. But I took on this huge challenge in stride and tried my hardest to produce well organized and in-depth papers.

I had a better grasp on the research process for my second paper. Also, I think I understood a lot more about the subject that I was researching, which in turn allowed me to write in my own style and technique. It also helped me focus a lot more on how structured my paper was instead of worrying about the content.

In my last two papers I was able to take another look at my content and I was able to see if my thesis connected to what I was writing in the body. Using this, I was able to revise my papers. Also in my last two papers I tried my best to express myself and what I was

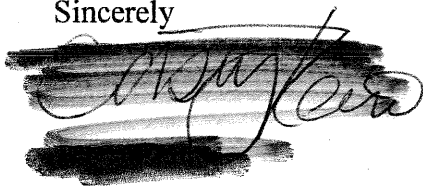
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writing in a productive manner. I tried to use different words to support my argument, and in-depth thinking to analyze the subject that I was researching. Demonstrating these traits is pretty hard to do but I think I executed the task well.

In English I still have a lot more to work on, for starters my MLA citation format, because it's truly important. I have done okay with the MLA in my papers but it does need a little more work on perfecting the format. Another technique that I need to work on is my thesis. It needs to be strong and it needs to get the job done, I feel that I am so close to that point but until then, I will continue to work on it. Something else I need to work on in academic papers is my ability to produce my stance on the subject. I know that its just about there its only hidden in the mass of the body of my papers, so I know that I've tried to get it perfect but it needs a little more work.

All in all I think this class has had an impact on the way I learn, and how I learned how to write in different manners. The class and work involved, was challenging and stimulated my brain! I tried hard and I am content with the results that I was able to produce.

Sincerely



September 27, 2005

Gay Men Stereotypes in Television

In the year 1994 the Journal of Homosexuality conducted a survey that analyzed the "Impact of 'Media Contact' on attitudes toward gay men." The study was designed to answer the question of whether media contact reduces the prejudice by looking at attitudes towards homosexuals in television. The journal also looked at different researchers' stand in the debate of the survey. "Many researchers have argued that the media plays a central role in the development and maintenance of stereotypes and prejudice through stereotypic portrayals of minority group members." (Riggle et. al. 2) Also the journal in general gives examples of different stereotyping of gays and lesbians; it goes into extensive detail about how the stereotypes have evolved. The survey was done on college students in universities. The students watched the documentary The Times of Harvey Milk, who was the first openly-gay elected officials in the U.S. In 1977 Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and seven months later, he and George Moscone (the Mayor of San Francisco) were shot and killed by Dan White (a Former member of the Board of Supervisors.) (Riggle et al. 4) The purpose of showing the documentary was to give the students, who had 44% or less contact with a homosexual, the chance to view a gay man from clips of his life. The journal has

This movie
is in our
Library.

presented its data and it is very interesting to read what the students have to say about media and homosexuality.

After viewing the film some of the students were truly touched and moved by the film, we know this by their reaction to the film. "I have been very touched and it has really almost changed my view on homosexuals. I previously had felt very little sympathy to the discrimination of homosexuals but now I see that I was very closed-minded." (Riggle et. al. 7) This was one example of an extremely moved student. "This was a very touching film, merely by the way it was put together and brought across. I still am very bothered by gay men and lesbians, but I guess as a society we must learn to deal with it." (Riggle et. al. 8) This statement was more moderate in feelings than the first one. A more extreme statement of prejudice is "Shoot all the damn gays." (Riggle et. al. 8) After reviewing the statements of the students, the general prejudice was substantially lowered in terms of hate. This could tell us that because of "media-contact" with gays the stereotypes of the gay minority are diminished for the students who were moved by the film. For those who weren't moved or touched by the film had the same amount of prejudice as when they started the survey.

From the survey the general public student opinion about gays was neutral, as in there was no real hate and no real liking of the situation. The survey concluded its purpose with a discussion about the results. "The results also suggest that when very little is known about an outgroup the requirements of actual close contact of an interdependent and equal nature may be substituted with the 'contact' experience in which individuals are exposed to information about the group through some medium, such as a movie or television." (Riggle et. al. 9) The study conducted was great in telling us such things about the public

student opinion and opening our eyes to what other people are thinking when presented with a film like the one showed.

My position on gays in the world is to let people do their own thing, what can one persons response to their decisions do to change their ways. I believe that people should be able to live their life the way that they want to, every single person is different in their own beliefs, likes, and dislikes.

Cases -
You've chosen
a very interesting
study. So, the question
I would ask is this: what
does a study like this mean
to mass media? How does it
inform both the way mass media
presents homosexuality and the vigorous
attempts to censor all representations
of "normal" gay life in the media?
If media can be a tool for
social change (as the study suggests),
what then should we do about attempts
to censor alternative voices in the
media? Please tell me your thoughts.

Bibliography

Riggle Phd, Ellen D., Alan L. Ellis, Phd, and Anne M. Crawford Ma. "The Impact of
"Media COn tact" on Attitudes Toward Gay Men." Journal of Homosexuality ns
31.3 (1994): 1-11. 4 Oct. 2005 <<http://www.haworthpress.com>>.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
peer review
for ~~XXXXXX~~

1. Good job summarizing problem + the source's position
2. Good job with showing your opinion but make hypothesis a little clearer.
3. Other perspectives + positions are not really strongly identified
4. Assumptions show
5. Great job with quality of evidence
6. Context on issue is identified
7. Conclusions + consequences shown but could be clearer

English 101
Analyzing Rhetoric 2
September 27, 2005

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student opinion and opening our eyes to what other people are thinking when presented with a film like the one showed.

My position on gays in the world is to let people do their own thing, what can one person's response to their decisions do to change their ways. I believe that people should be able to live their life the way that they want to, every single person is different in their own beliefs, likes, and dislikes. Also there needs to be drastic changes in how television censors the gays in their shows because the public and viewers need to get a real feeling from a show. It would help matters if there was an outspoken gay to defend the rights of gays in shows, then maybe we would finally be able to see real gay men in their environment.

English 101

Section 27

November 9, 2005

"You're A Homo!"

Not very exciting

Gay Men Homophobia in the Media

Homosexuality in movies and television has sort of been a taboo to society. In order for homosexuals to be in shows and television, producers and script writers portray gay men as feminine and lesbian women as butch. They do this to appeal to their audience, in a way to comfort them and make them feel comfortable in watching homosexuals on the screen. Stereotypes of homosexuals have been and are on the screens of today's entertainment.

Stereotypes will always be a part of the ^{Hetero/Homosexual} homosexual world. In the movie The Birdcage, directed by Mike Nichols, two gay men run a gay bar and act ^{overtly} overtly gay. The character Albert dresses in women's clothes and acts like a woman. He makes the movie comical by, in a way, making fun of a homosexual man. ^{again} Also in The Birdcage, the same character Albert tries to sway his hips in a manner that portrays him as a woman

throughout the show. While adding comedy to an unspoken subject, he might also be telling the audience that it is ok to watch a gay man on the screen, because he is inferior to the audiences being. The homosexual ^{part of society} world is so full of stereotypes and there are many more examples of this that shall come.

Is it the gay world, or the larger society?

Homophobia is one of the biggest stereotypes which are directly related to ignorance. In an online article called "The Truth About Gay Guys" posted on a branch of Planned Parenthood, the author, Karen Solomon introduces stereotypes about the myths and homophobias about gay men. "Not all gay men like fashion, listen to dance music, or live in big cities. The stereotype of a high-pitched voice or a limp wrist is simply the stuff seen in movies." (1). So many people have this assumption and it does play out in the movies. It just goes to show, that producers and script writers want to play it safe in not telling the truth about gay men. In a way the producers are protecting the audience, but they are also teaching ignorance. They are teaching ignorance by putting homosexual men in one category, which are feminine gay men.

-By sheltering them to how the real world works how are they protecting the audience?

Television is another part of the media in which gays continue to be stereotyped. In an article "Gays on Television: Progress or Process," the author Duane Wells brings up a great point. He states that "gays are more than sidekicks...more than best friends...more than people who can help put together the most fabulous dinner party straight people have ever seen...but you'd never know judging from what's on television these days." (1,2). The statement is true and it brings in the point that the public audience is being denied what they should know. It is in the nature of the media to protect the public eye from seeing the truth about controversial issues, and homosexuality is one of them.

How is society supposed to be accepting of different issues and cultures and race without the knowledge to justify, that accepting different things is right, In the same article another point is brought up by the author, "The very fact that gays continue to have a place on television is indicative of the ever-growing realization that gay culture is a part of mainstream culture and as such cannot be overlooked or denied as a part of the fabric

-Because pe gays are people too! why?

of society." (2). Although the statement is by one man, it is most definitely felt by different people all over the states. Since producers and script writers continue to put homosexuals in their movies and television show it is proof that homosexual men are just as much a part of society as the next straight man. It also gives proof that the public should know the real homosexual man not a stereotypical one, which would mean that gays would have to be portrayed in their own element. Breaking the ignorance is the key to breaking the ^{"stereotypes of"} stereotypical gays in television and movies.

In 1994, the ^{Actually, you want the author here} Journal of Homosexuality, conducted a survey and showed a documentary called The Times of Harvey Milk, who the first openly-gay elected official in the U.S. He was shot three years later in 1997 by a former member of the Board of Supervisors. After seeing the documentary there were different reactions by all, but the majority of the perceptions of gay men were changed. This change in the perceptions is great, because gay men should be portrayed in their element and Harvey Milk's element was government. It goes to show that homosexual men are not all feminine, arrogant, dumb, or any other stereotype, which television and movies make them out to be. Once again knowledge is the best defense against stereotypes of homosexual men.

In the article "Representations of Gays and Lesbians in Film", the information presented is directly related to what I am arguing in this paper. The author who is apparently nameless does a generation by generation time line of how gays are represented. "1890's to the 1930's, homosexuality was often presented as an object of ridicule and laughter...the sissy was not a threatening representation of homosexuality because he occupied a middle ground between masculinity and femininity." Saying what

^{awkward} its saying the opinion hits the subject of homophobia right on the dot. It is a safe to watch

a homosexual on the screen who is a sissy, because the public is so involved in their own feelings and lifestyle that it is a safe place to be, free of ridicule for accepting something

unclear

different. Also in the same article "during the 1930's to the 1950's films could not feature

overtly homosexual characters- so homosexuality was suggested through a character's mannerisms and behavior." They did this because women's groups and religious groups

Font

criticized Hollywood films for contributing to immorality, which is something harsh to

say. But this is where it first begins, homosexuals were the forbidden, they were taboo

what was Hollywood to do. Which brings me to the point again, that society is so

unwilling to accept the different people and cultures, yet they can talk about how diverse

our great country is. Taking the safe route was the only way to go. This is precisely why

okay

producers and Hollywood "fear that focusing on gay and lesbian themes risks offending a

large portion of the audience, as well as potential investors." This might explain the

cite?

attitudes and homophobias against homosexuals, but it is a sorry excuse to stereotype a

group that has tried desperately to be normal seeming.

In the article Gay Men Perpetuate Stereotypes, written by Christian G. Forsythe for the John Hopkins News-Letter, he challenges the gay stereotypes. "Although the majority of gay men are quick to protest the mainstream stereotypes of gay men, they are often slow in challenging the projected stereotypes gay male culture imposes upon its own society" (1). It's true gay men take homophobia from heterosexuals in offence but homophobia from homosexuals is acceptable. Gay men fit into the stereotype that the public gives them. "Gay men are attracted to men who are beautiful in much the same way as straight men are attracted to beautiful women and, women and gay men have much in common in their efforts to dispel popular myths of beauty and physical

perfection." (1). When thought about seeing gay men talk about such things is common for those members of society who do associate with gay men. I do have a gay friend and he is only attracted to obviously handsome men, he talks of fashion and makeup, it's a common subject in a daily conversation. I don't see how the gay society can be so hypocritical about a subject that they take so lightly within the homosexual society.

Forsythe also makes the comment, "Beauty in gay culture, as it is espoused and portrayed by those who make up that culture, is not so much a stereotype as it is an archetype. The

male form, as long as it boasts a beautiful face and a muscular body, is the May pole around which gay men celebrate and worship their sexuality." (2). Oh so true is this in the gay male world, if thought about the only reason a homosexual is homosexual is because of the attraction to the male body and features. If a gay man isn't attractive in the face or

body, he might as well not be gay because the majority of gay men are attracted to a handsome face with a sleek, shapely male body. When Christian says "Attractiveness is desired and desirable; unattractiveness is rejected and repulsive," (2). He proves the point

that if a gay man isn't attractive why be gay. Considering the stereotypes within the gay community why would any male want to be homosexual only to be criticized by his looks and body. The male body is what attracts, the male face is what attracts, a stereotype within itself. *yes.*

Stereotyping is hurtful, the mind, body, and soul suffer because of the public opinion. Homophobia is exactly like discrimination, people do not accept what they don't agree with because of the generated public assumption of character. In the article for the John Hopkins News-Letter the author states the "Black men and men of other racial and ethnic minorities are grossly underrepresented in cultural definitions and descriptions of

we are affected by stereotypes. They do work in two directions.

Be careful with "True" it's been a word debated over for centuries!

but that logic most straight men might as well not be straight either.


male beauty. The white male is by far the prevailing example of the ideal gay male sex partner (2). One would think that since the homosexuals are so discriminated against from all different types of people that they would be against discriminating against homosexuals who have a different skin color. In the same context he goes on to say that "the gay community is incredible lax in promoting the existence of men of color in its media and other tools of communication." So while the homosexual world is complaining of not be represented in the media accurately, they aren't even representing homosexuals of another race and ethnicity, other than white, at all. I don't think that the homosexuals should be able to complain about issues that they are supporting in their own society. It's a shame that gay men could be so haughty about something that they experience first hand and can dish it out as fast as they receive homophobia.

The homosexual world is so full of discrimination, stereotypes and homophobia. Through the paper there have been ideas supported by evidence and a lot of good points were discussed. Homosexuals are definitely discriminated against in the heterosexual world, but in return the homosexuals discriminate against homosexuals of a different color. Gay men are also misrepresented in the media which makes the public misinterpret homosexual men, thinking that they are overly feminine, and shamelessly gay. Although the society as a whole has knowledge about this there is nothing they can do about the situation because producers will continue to make movies with gay men in them who act flamboyant, feminine, and shamelessly gay. As stated earlier, who is going to think about gay men as masculine and be able to justify it, there isn't enough representation of the gay masculine man. So there should be more masculine gay men representation in the media including television and movies, the public should know about the common

That's conflating the individual w/ the group.
It's also pretty complex → should have a right to complain about sexism even though we often forget about women of color?

Why not?

stereotypes and try to break it with knowledge to their children and their children's children. The integrity of the states is so corrupt about issues that are not understood, with more representation the knowledge will be wide spread and some day the homosexual world will be accepted and represented accurately.

 a good start here. I like that you complicate gay culture, it's important to understand that gay men are also humans, with the same faults, foibles, and socially ingrained prejudices the rest of us humans struggle with.

I think what is going to make this a really strong paper is if you clarify your thesis. It's almost there, but still a bit vague. The other issue is tone. It's an academic paper, so you do want to write very formally - I'd ~~like~~ like to tone down the interjections of opinion (it's true! for example :) and watch your citations carefully.

Good work, 

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An article about gay men stereotypes and how homosexuals make the media portray them in a homophobic way.

Riggle PhD, Ellen D., Ellis, PhD, and Anne M. Crawford Ma. "The Impact of "Media Contact" on Attitudes Toward Gay Men." Journal of Homosexuality ns. 31.3 (1994): 1-11. 4 Oct. 2005
<<http://www.haworthpress.com>>.

The article which talks about the times of Harvey Milk and conducts a survey, to see how reactions changed attitudes toward gay men.

Wells, Duane. "Gays on Television: Progress or Process?." September 2004: 1-2.

The article discusses issues the facts about gays and how they are portrayed on television and in the media.

10 Nov. 2005 <www.media-awareness.ca>.

This article is a time-line about Hollywood and the stereotypes that went on throughout the history of movies and television.

Solomon, Karen. "The Truth About Gay Guys." teenwire.com. Planned Parenthood. 10 Nov. 2005 <www.teenwire.com>.

The article goes into detail about stereotypes of all kinds of homosexuals and also talks about the stereotypes on television.

English 101
Section 27
November 9, 2005

You're a Homo: Gay Men Homophobia in the Media

Homosexuality in movies and television has sort of been a taboo to society. In order for homosexuals to be in shows and television producers and script writers portray gay men as feminine and lesbian women as butch. They do this to appeal to their audience, in a way to comfort them and make them feel comfortable in watching homosexuals on the screen. Stereotypes of homosexuals have been and are on the screens of today's entertainment.

Stereotypes have always been a part of the hetero/homosexual world. In the movie The Birdcage, directed by Mike Nichols, two gay men run a gay bar and act overtly gay. The character Albert dresses in women's clothes and acts like a woman. He makes the movie comical by, in a way, making fun of a homosexual man. Again in The Birdcage, Albert tries to sway his hips in a manner that portrays him as a woman throughout the show. While adding comedy to an unspoken subject, he might also be telling the audience that it is ok to watch a gay man on the screen, because he is inferior to the audiences being. The homosexual part of society is so full of stereotypes and there are many more examples of this that shall come.

Homophobia is one of the biggest stereotypes which are directly related to ignorance. In an online article called "The Truth about Gay Guys" posted on a branch of

Planned Parenthood, the author, Karen Solomon introduces stereotypes about the myths and homophobias about gay men. "Not all gay men like fashion, listen to dance music, or live in big cities. The stereotype of a high-pitched voice or a limp wrist is simply the stuff seen in movies." (1). So many people have this assumption and it does play out in the movies. It just goes to show, that producers and script writers want to play it safe in not telling the truth about gay men. In a way the producers are protecting the audience, by sheltering them to how the real world works, but they are also teaching ignorance. They are teaching ignorance by putting homosexual men in one category, which are feminine gay men.

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on the screen who is a sissy, because the public is so involved in their own feelings and lifestyle that it is a safe place to be, free of ridicule for accepting something different. Also in the same article "during the 1930's to the 1950's films could not feature overtly homosexual characters- so homosexuality was suggested through a character's mannerisms and behavior." They did this because women's groups and religious groups criticized Hollywood films for contributing to immorality, which is something harsh to say. But this is where it first begins, homosexuals were the forbidden, they were taboo what was Hollywood to do. Which again brings up the point, that society is so unwilling to accept the different people and cultures, yet they can talk about how diverse our great country is. Taking the safe route was the only way to go. This is precisely why producers and Hollywood "fear that focusing on gay and lesbian themes risks offending a large portion of the audience, as well as potential investors"(Forsythe 2). This might explain the attitudes and homophobias against homosexuals, but it is a sorry excuse to stereotype a group that has tried desperately to be normal seeming.

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The homosexual world is so full of discrimination, stereotypes and homophobia. Through the paper there have been ideas supported by evidence and a lot of good points were discussed. Homosexuals are definitely discriminated against in the heterosexual world, but in return the homosexuals discriminate against homosexuals of a different color. Gay men are also misrepresented in the media which makes the public misinterpret homosexual men, thinking that they are overly feminine, and shamelessly gay. Although the society as a whole has knowledge about this there is nothing they can do about the situation because producers will continue to make movies with gay men in them who act flamboyant, feminine, and shamelessly gay. They will continue to do so because it makes movies sell and become hits. As stated earlier, who is going to think about gay men as masculine and be able to justify it, there isn't enough representation of the gay masculine

man. So there should be more masculine gay men representation in the media including television and movies, the public should know about the common stereotypes and try to break it with knowledge to their children and their children's children. The integrity of the states is so corrupt about issues that are not understood, with more representation the knowledge will be wide spread and some day the homosexual world will be accepted and represented accurately.

Jackson Katz. Advertising and the Construction of Violent White Masculinity. *INC*

The chapter "The Violent Debates" talks about how white males have to be in control in their work, and personal life. It goes into detail about how there are different portrayals in television and media that make men to be domineering and strong and tough. It focuses on masculinity in everything especially media. It gives insight to link one area of masculinity to the next, as in comic books to pornography. The whole chapter is to think of how understanding the link between gender and masculinity.

An idea that is purposed in this chapter is " 'real men' are physically strong, aggressive, and in control of their work." *according to whom?*

As responding to this question I would say that this is quite true. It's a portrayal that men think that they have to bring on. I have personal experience with this actually. My boyfriend of 2 years takes on this portrayal of a "manly-man." Last winter he lost his Granddad and Grammy within 4 months of each other. Ryan was extremely close to them, we visited them on our second date, and yet he wouldn't cry. Ryan and I had just had our 1st year anniversary and about 3 weeks later his Granddad ^{*Rascal*} ~~past~~ away it was awefully sad and I cried because I had gotten to know him so well. I told Ryan that he could tell me anything and I would always be there for him if he needed a shoulder to cry on but Ryan's exact words were "real men don't cry," I would tell him ~~shut-up~~ ^{*to be quiet*} and finally one night it all caught up to him and he cried, it was the saddest thing but he ~~cried~~ ^{*finally he*} *cried*. ~~finally~~. It was especially hard when his Grammy past away because we were both so

close to her and she was holding on to life so that she could say goodbye to him. He cried at her funeral and I couldn't do anything because he was with his family and so I think that he understood that he didn't have to put on the tough guy act for anybody when he's hurting. (ryan would kill me if he knew I put all this stuff in here but I have extreme respect for his Granddad and Grammy:) I think this directly relates to the "real men" theme because no matter what the situation a man is going to feel like he has to be the "man" of it.

~~Yes, you are right, it does relate to that~~
Many man thing, and thanks
I promise I won't tell, and thanks
for taking it into the personal. Personal
experience is one very powerful, war
of arguing. As long as we don't universalize
our experiences, we can still apply our experiences
as valid evidence - like you've done. So, do
you think then, that Ryan transcended a narrow
stereotype? And, I think it's powerful that you seem
to respect him more for showing emotion - That
you seem to define strength in a way that
"tough guy" ideal neglects. I'd have you share that
with a few of the guys
cause that's with
women that argued that
we're less
complicated!

Jackson Katz. Advertising and the Construction of Violent White Masculinity.

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to her and she was holding on to life so that she could say goodbye to him. He cried at her funeral and I couldn't do anything because he was with his family and so I think that he understood that he didn't have to put on the tough guy act for anybody when he's hurting. (ryan would kill me if he knew I put all this stuff in here but I have extreme respect for his Granddad and Grammy:) I think this directly relates to the "real men" theme because no matter what the situation a man is going to feel like he has to be the "man" of it.

Goldsworthy Hall
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P.O. Box 1700
December 16, 2005

Press Release

Our organization, based out of Washington State University, is dedicated to the protesting of the excessive and exploitive media coverage of the current war in Iraq. We feel that the media's presence in Iraq is beginning to overstep its limits as defined by the Second Amendment of the Constitution. Although we are firm supporters of the freedom of press, we feel that the safety of American troops and Iraqi troops and citizens is on the verge of being endangered due to the media's over-coverage of American war strategy, insurgent successes, and numbing death toll reports.

SAEMCOW believes that the media, especially televised newscasts and Internet news websites, are contributing to a threat to American security. For example, it seems that displaying the American Strategy for Victory in Iraq from the United States Secretary of Defense Office on CNN.com will only make our country's strategies and techniques for success available to the enemy. We are aware that such documentation does not disclose detailed locations of operation bases or specific mission plans; however, we feel that the contents of such documents will make understanding our overall plan easier for insurgents and make their strategizing easier and more dangerous to the coalition forces.

We also fear that the daily reports in our news regarding deadly insurgent attacks are desensitizing the American public towards such events. While these reports do not directly threaten national security, they build expectations of such events to occur, thus possibly motivating insurgents, and such reports also allow the American public to be thoroughly involved in the daily events of the war, thus creating a growing curiosity and dependency on further details. SAEMCOW fears that the press will feed on this curiosity to a dangerous extent and overreach its limitations outlined in the Constitution.

Our goal is to present our fears to the members of Congress by writing letters to our Representatives and Senators, and presenting before state legislatures and the houses of Congress. We will ask our legislature to review the restrictions on freedom of the press, and prioritize what information should not be released to the public. Our letter campaign would only benefit from support from others who believe that military strategy should not be publicized and that reiterating the death toll of American soldiers is unhealthy to the American psyche and possibly the safety of the American public.

Sincerely,

