

**Third Reaction Paper Assignment**  
**MAS 555-001 Spring 2013**  
**Due Date: Thursday, April 4**

Here's the description of the Reaction Paper assignments, lifted directly from your course syllabus:

**Reaction Papers:** These assignments require you to write three five-six page papers based on an explanation and analysis of, and personal reaction to, three specific components of the curriculum of this course.

As promised, here are my expectations for the third reaction paper. This paper will differ significantly from the first two. Whereas the first two papers required you to write about your own experiences in the context of certain Net Generation characteristics, this paper will consist mainly of your informed and well-articulated opinion on a subject with which you have had little experience. It might help to open and actually bend your mind a little bit.

Based on chapters two and six of the Lessig book, Code 2.0, the Julian Dibbell article "A Rape in Cyberspace," and your own informed opinion, take this question as the central premise of your paper: Is it actually possible to be raped in cyberspace? As you write this paper, remember that the question asks you to consider a rape in cyberspace – not in the physical world. In other words, it's a cyber crime in a cyber world and real world rules don't necessarily apply – or do they? It is not necessary to quote dictionary definitions of rape in your paper – I know what the word means. In the spirit of the assignment, strive to consider Lessig's theories on computer-mediated community and identity and Dibbell's account of the strange circumstances of LambdaMOO from a multiplicity of viewpoints. Try for at least two, anyway. Regardless of the stand you take, make sure that you adequately represent the opposing point of view. This proves to me that you have considered both sides of the issue, and it is also necessary to effectively refute the opposing opinion. Remember that ultimately Dibbell's article is not about the crime, but the aftermath of the crime. What is the significance of these events?

I don't want to see wanton quoting from the articles to the extent that it becomes a significant portion of your paper, but of course it will be necessary for you to make use of material from the two. Draw heavily on Lessig's analysis of personality, identity, and community. Use specific examples from his case studies and from Dibbell's account to support your reasoning. If you like, incorporate your own experiences or those of people you know, and use them to help illustrate your point. As usual, I am expecting a high level of competence in your execution of the spelling and grammar.