



Cornish College of the Arts  
Humanities and Sciences Department, Spring 2009

## Birds & Whistles: Making a Literary & Arts Magazine

### Essay Assignment Options 3, 4 & 5

For this class you are required to write 2 Short Essays of about 2 pages each. There are 5 options, each with its own due date, distributed across semester. Your first 2 options were handed out earlier in the quarter. This handout describes Options 3, 4 and 5.

These essays will be graded on: quality of writing (including style and organization), quality of ideas, responsiveness to the assignment, punctuality, and correctness of grammar, punctuation, etc.

#### Option 3: About *Birds & Whistles*

**Due :** Monday March 23

**Length:** ~ 2 pages typed & double spaced, including responses to questions.

**What is an “About Us”?**

Before writing this essay, review the sample About Us pages listed in your syllabus/course schedule (page 6 under Monday Feb 2 readings). Also check out *52 Projects* (listed under Feb 4 readings). What do they seem to have in common? What specific qualities from each could you model? How is *Birds & Whistles* similar/different from one or more of these? Write short answers to these questions. Can you find other online or print magazines more similar to B&W?

**The Essay:**

Compose a short essay describing *Birds & Whistles* for the public. Aim it toward potential readers or subscribers/purchasers of the magazine, including those outside of the Cornish community. The About Us should focus on philosophy, character, and vision (as opposed to guidelines for submission, etc.).

#### Option 4: *Birds & Whistles* History & Vision

**Due :** Monday April 6

**Length:** ~ 2 pages typed & double spaced, including responses to questions.

Before writing this essay, go to the Cornish Library and look over all the previous issues of *Birds & Whistles*. What do they seem to have in common? How does the magazine seem to have evolved? Write short answers to these questions. Also, get a copy of Kyle Wendt’s e-mail describing the origins of *Birds & Whistles* (which he wrote for the 10 year anniversary) from Cori.

**The Essay:**

Part 1 History: Compose a short essay describing the history of *Birds & Whistles* for the public. Aim it toward potential readers or subscribers/purchasers of the magazine, including those outside of the Cornish community. Include specific references to past issues and Kyle’s letter.

Part 2 Vision: Then describe your vision for *Birds & Whistles* 2009. How does it carry on tradition and how does it reshape it?

## Option 5: *Birds & Whistles 2009* Introduction

**Due :** Monday April 20

**Length:** ~ 2 pages typed & double spaced, including responses to samples.

### **What is an Introduction ?**

Before writing this essay, review 2 of the following sample Introductions to online Literary and/or Arts Magazines PLUS 2 from the magazines in the Cornish library :

<http://www.darkskymagazine.com/about/>

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/journal/feature.html?id=182121>

[http://www.ninthletter.com/printed\\_journal/issue/1](http://www.ninthletter.com/printed_journal/issue/1)

What do they seem to have in common? What specific qualities from each could you model? Write short answers to these questions.

### **The Essay:**

Compose a short essay “Introduction to *Birds & Whistles 2009*” Write it for the public: potential readers or subscribers/purchasers of the magazine, including those outside of the Cornish community. This Introduction should emphasize the characteristics of this issue, but can refer to B&W’s history, or the process of working on it as well. Make reference to three or more pieces that will appear in the issue – individually or as a group.

