

**Bill Wolff**

**Writing, Research, and Technology, Spring 2007**

**Essay 3: Beautiful Evidence and September 11 Reporting**

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### **Texts**

Edward Tufte, *Beautiful Evidence*

Luc Sante, *Evidence*

Jay David Bolter, *Writing Spaces: Computers, Hypertext, and the Remediation of Print*

### **Assignment**

We began the semester looking at representations of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, considering how the medium—print, web, audio, video—effected the way we as readers and viewers understood the events of that day. For this final assignment of the semester we will again visit the events of that day, to consider a major article and accompanying multimedia published in print and online by the *New York Times* (see course web site for links to the article and multimedia).

In “Fighting to Live as the Towers Died” and the accompanying Interactives multimedia—“Inside the Towers” and “Chronology”—Jim Dwyer, Eric Lipton, Kevin Flynn, James Glanz, and Ford Fessenden (published May 26, 2002), report “a haunting chronicle of the final 102 minutes at the World Trade Center . . . , built on scores of phone conversations and e-mail and voice messages. These accounts, along with the testimony of the handful of people who escaped, provide the first sweeping views from the floors directly hit by the airplanes and above.” In short, the article and multimedia attempt to provide evidence for what happened in the upper floors of the Towers between the times of impact and their ultimate fall.



For this final assignment, I would like you to use Tufte's and Sante's and/or Bolter's ideas to come to your own conclusion about whether or not the Interactives multimedia that accompany “Fighting to Live as the Towers Died” are examples of beautiful evidence.

When writing this assignment there are many terms and ideas you may wish to take into consideration, including: evidence presentation, the relationship between text and image, the position of images within text, the role of remediation in the creation of evidence; how writing space media impact evidence; and many others. Of course, you will have to read the full article. You may also wish to see how the article looked when it first appeared in print. The library has the *New York Times* on microfilm, which is available on the 2nd floor, Periodicals, between the hours 8am and midnight. An assistant is available to help you between 8:00am and 9:00pm.

You are required to use screen shots (at least 3) of the multimedia presentations in your essay, and the presentation of such screen shots should follow Tufte's ideas on image placement within a text. If you will find it more useful to use a program, like Quark, to create the layout for the

essay, that is fine. If so, please turn your essay in as a PDF file (or, if possible, export it to a Word or RTF document).

You also have the option of creating an online version of the essay, complete with hyperlinks (as needed) and images.

tues-thurs due dates and page requirements

Screen Shot Analysis and Tuftean Description  
Thurs, April 12 by classtime; 3 full pages  
Place in openarea in "essay-3-screen-shot" folder

Rough Draft

Tuesday, April 17 at noon; 5 - 7 pages  
Page length does not include images  
If Word, bring electronic version to class  
If Quark, bring 2 printed copies to class  
Place in openarea in "essay-3-rd" folder

Final Draft

Tuesday, April 24, classtime, 7 - 10 pages  
Page length does not include images  
Place in openarea in "essay-3-fd" folder

Web Version (optional)

Wed., May 2, 5:00pm  
Add link from your home page  
Email Dr. Wolff with URL

wed due dates and page requirements

Screen Shot Analysis and Tuftean Description  
Wed, April 18 by classtime; 3 full pages  
Place in openarea in "essay-3-screen-shot" folder

Rough Draft

Wednesday, April 25 at noon; 5 - 7 pages  
Page length does not include images  
If Word, bring electronic version to class  
If Quark, bring 2 printed copies to class  
Place in openarea in "essay-3-rd" folder

Final Draft

Monday, April 30, 5:00pm, 7 - 10 pages  
Page length does not include images  
Place in openarea in "essay-3-fd" folder

Web Version (optional)

Wed., May 2, 5:00pm  
Add link from your home page  
Email Dr. Wolff with URL