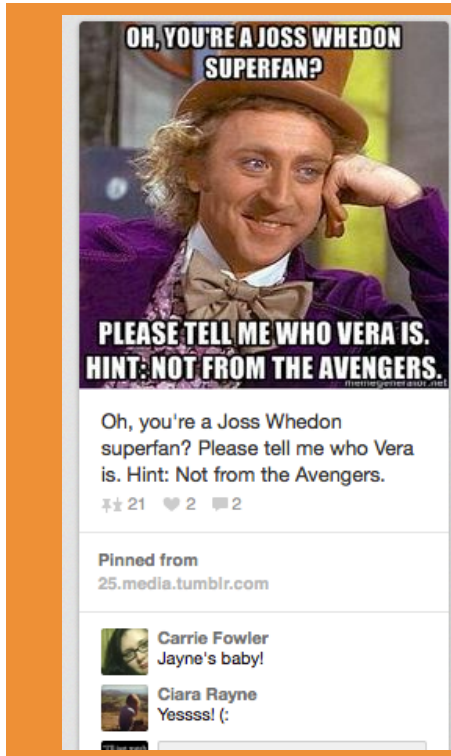# Field Notes #1
Following the Fandom Community

By ENG1302.RachelCantrell.com

Part I: Pinterest

1) Accept the Pinterest board invitation you were sent. This is the board that you will be pinning your artifacts to all semester long. On the top of your field notes list your Pinterest user name and a link to your account.

2) Find 3 boards about your fandom to follow. Paste the URL to those boards into your field notes. You will watch these boards for interesting artifacts that you maybe able to use in your project. Take screenshots of any interesting conversations in the comment sections that you see. You will use these screenshots in this and future field notes.

3) Find five artifacts to pin. When you pin an artifact you need to put "artifact #" in the pin description- number each pin. You can add screenshots that you've taken to your board as an image by clicking on the plus sign at the top of the page.
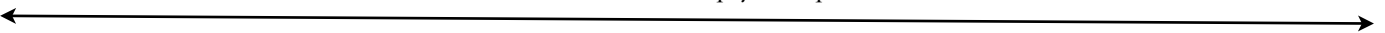
Do the written portion of your field

This is an example of an image related to the Joss Whedon fandom that could be pinned as an artifact if you were studying the fandom of one of his shows or films.

See the "Field Note Instructions: Recording Artifact Data" handout to see what information needs to be included in your field notes along with the image or screenshot.

notes in a word document that you will turn in to the dropbox:

Above your 100 word summary write the artifact number. You should identify Szwed's five elements of literacy: text (which if your fandom's book, TV series, or film), the context & function, the participants, and the motivation. For participants you can say how many people pinned it, how many views it had on YouTube and how many comments it had, etc. You can take screenshots of the comment section as well to help you explain the

motivation or context & function. You can quote the comment section by taking a screenshot of the comment and pasting it into your notes. If you don't know how to take a screen shot then Google it. You can take a screenshot on computers, tablets, and smart phones. Google the instructions for your specific device.

*Pin any layouts of buildings on the show or maps of areas featured on the show!

Artifact Example
Another example of a screenshot. Notice how the screenshot includes the fan comments.

Artifacts
What to Look For

By ENG1302.RachelCantrell.com

In addition to following Pinterest boards based on your assigned fandoms, you will also search the internet for other sites/communities. Examples of such sites are: fanfiction archives (many also have podcast of the fanfiction and a forum/message boards), forums (message boards) with online RPG (role playing games), wiki's or lexicon's dedicated to the fandom, Facebook groups or

pages, blogs using other platforms such as Wordpress or Blogger, etc. There are also numerous YouTube channels and videos that you could follow. Netflix instant streaming has many documentaries on specific fandoms that you could watch and take observation notes over for your field notes.

Games of Thrones Artifact #1

Source: http://www.pinterest.com/pin/377106168769849266/

Summary: This photo shows a child fan wearing a shirt with the phrase "I'm Not a Princess I'm a Khalessi." Khalessi is an important character in the Game of Thrones- she is a leader, she is royalty, but she is so much more. She's a warrior and would easily destroy any disney princess in her path. The Game of Thrones wiki (link below) defines a Khalessi as "*Khalessi* is a Dothraki title referring to the wife of the khal." The girl in the photo is holding a dragon- The Khalessi character is the mother of dragons- she has actual dragons. So this photo shows a young fan expressing her relation to this character and has a key word in the Games of Thrones fandom lexicon. I could easily use this artifact in my ethnographic essay and final presentation.

I have added Khalessi to my lexicon.

Game of Thrones Wiki: gameofthrones.wikia.com/

An ethnography is the study of culture. We are studying the media literacy practices and events of fandoms. Their literacy artifacts are the things they create and share online. Fandom is a discourse community; it is a community of fans.

Please talk to your professor before the due date if you have any questions. See the syllabus for your instructors office hours or email address.

Field Note Instructions
Recording Artifact Data

By Rachel Cantrell   ENG1302.rachelcantrell.com

You should be pinning artifacts that illustrates your fandoms literacy practices. You need to be able to relate the artifact with something we've read about literacy in this course.

For each pin you will write 100 words about it in your field notes. You should identify Szwed's five elements of literacy: text (which if your fandom's book, TV series, or film), the context & function, the participants, and the motivation. For participants you can say how many people pinned it, how many views it had on YouTube and how many comments it had, etc. You can take screenshots of the comment section as well to help you

explain the motivation or context & function. You can quote the comment section by taking a screenshot of the comment and pasting it into your notes. If you don't know how to take a screen shot then Google it.

You should also look for and identify Scribner's three metaphors. Literacy as adaption should be found with every pin- how are they adapting their basic literacy skills to participate in their fandom? Also look for literacy as power and literacy as a state of grace. With fandoms that feature the occult you can often find those against the fandom who make religious arguments about the fandom or text.

Building Your Field Notes
What You Need to Include

By ENG1302.RachelCantrell.com

Building a Lexicon
What to Look For

While you are observing these fan communities (especially on Tumblr and looking through any fan made wiki's or online lexicons) you need to continue to build a lexicon in your field notes. With every field note assignment you should include a list of new words (and their definitions) that you've added to your fan lexicon.

For example, many fans have a word that they use to refer to fans of that specific fandom. For example Star Trek fans are Treckies. Doctor Who fans are Whovians. Each fandom will have unique words that either come from the show itself or from the fan community. You will need to keep a list of these unique words. For example, for Doctor Who you would include Alyson-y, Geronimo, the Silence, and Don't Blink!

Mapping the Space
Look for Layouts & Diagrams

Look for layouts or blue prints of sets or important settings on the show, movie, or game. For example, for the Big Bang Theory you can find online layout of the apartments where most of the show takes place. You can use these maps to talk about the show and relate the fans relationships with these spaces/shows. You can include these illustrations on your final display as an artifact of the fandom.

SHELDON - LEONARD & PENNY'S APARTMENTS

IÑAKI ALISTE LIZARRALDE

image source:
http://bigbangtheory.wikia.com/wiki/Apartment_4A

Artifacts
What to Collect?

You will collect artifacts from your fandom. You will pin these artifacts to your assigned Pinterest board. In the description area of the pin you will state what the artifact is (fan art, fanfiction, a YouTube video, etc.) and give us some context. By context I mean tell us where the artifact comes from, what does it represent, who created it (if known), what's going on in it or how are fans engaging with it, etc. You should also take more detailed notes in your field notes about these questions.

Fanfiction
A Literacy Practice

Fanfiction is one of the primary literacy practices of fans. Find a fanfiction archive (website or blog) dedicated to your fandom. If you can't find one through a Goggle search then go look on fanfiction.net which is a large archive encompassing numerous fandoms. Many archives will have a list of trending stories- read these as they are getting the most hits (being read the most by other fans). See what fans are writing. Do you notice any trends? (For example is their a lot of slash fiction? Or is there a divide among fans between two different shipping pairs? (For example in the Twilight fandom you have fans divided over Bella and Edward VS. Bella and Jacob.) How do fans form communities around these archives? Is there a popular archive or did you have to go fanfiction.net? Is there a forum connected to the archive where fans communicate? Is there contest on the archive? Who are the popular authors? What do the most popular fanfics say about the fandom community? Etc. See fanfiction handout for a list of common fanfiction terminology.

Fandom Wikis
Search for Them

Another common literacy practice is creating a wiki for the fandom. Fans build these wikis with information about the original text-basically everything you would want to know. Use Google to see if there is a wiki for your fandom. If there is, study it for their literacy practices. What trends are you noticing? Is there a forum connected to it? Many of these wiki's are built on http://www.wikia.com/ while others are hosted on individual websites.