

## **Transmission Assignment**

### **Introduction to Communication Studies**

**Date Due:** Your paper must be posted at least 24 hours before your conference time on your conference's designated bulletin board. We will be happy to provide comments on drafts during office hours but not over email.

**Relevant Readings:** Peters, Hall, Davison

**Purpose and Particulars:** Please see the assignment sheet entitled "Conference Papers."

**Background:** These authors all criticize the idea that communication is simply about transmitting an idea so that it is the same in the mind of a "sender" and "receiver."

#### **Task:**

1. Pick a media event or artifact – a news report, blog entry, Facebook post, scene from a TV show or film, lyric from a song, etc., where the idea of communication as transmitting ideas from one person's mind to another's is explicitly discussed, or where the transmission of messages is explicitly presented as a problem or the solution to a problem. The more specific your artifact, the better. E.G., it shouldn't be "phone calls in general" but a specific phone call you made or a specific phone call in a movie.
2. Describe your event or artifact and how it partakes of the idea of communication-as-transmission as we have discussed it in class. Does it present the process of communication as a problem, a solution or both?
3. Choose at least once concept, idea or proposition from the relevant readings and apply it to your case and/or artifact. What would Peters, Hall or Davison say about your example? How might they respond to the ideas of communication it represents or enacts?

**Tips:** The paper doesn't need to go in the order of the assignment. The strongest papers often integrate the discussion of the reading with the discussion of the example.