Short Paper 1.3: Cyberspatiagraph

As Monty Python famously said, "And now for something completely different!" Mostly, anyway.

Central to the class and to the readings is a critical imagination and exploration of cyberspace—as an idea, a construct, an institution, and a geography. How a writer like Gibson or a theorist like Benedikt or an engineer like Bush (and by extension an "everyday user," whatever that means) conceives of and describes and articulates "cyberspace" is the our main question.

To get at part of the answer, this assignment asks you to engage in **your** critical imagination and exploration of cyberspace. One of the first questions asked of you in this class was "What is cyberspace?" Now is an opportunity to respond creatively and innovatively. This assignment is divided into two complementary parts:

First, draw or create a **one-page visual representation** of what you imagine "cyberspace" to be, to represent, to provide for the world. Your visual representation should be more than just a collage of images or a simple abstraction; this is more than just an arts and crafts project. Think about how your visualization, your "graph of cyberspace" argues, defines, and articulates a concrete, specific idea, issue, or problem with or about cyberspace. Be creative and critical.

Second, write a **one-page explication and analysis** of your visual representation. Again, avoid simply describing what your audience can already see for themselves. In words, answer the question, "What is cyberspace?" And explain and express how your image complements or supplements your written argument. How does your image or images answer for you (and for your audience) the question, "What is cyberspace?" You may want to think about how to incorporate both text and image together, simultaneously.

Incorporate your readings as part of your images or your text. You might draw inspiration from Gibson's stories or Bush's technological predictions or Benedikt's threads of thought. How do they imagine or visualize or describe cyberspace? How is your imagination similar? How is it different? More importantly, how is your Cyberspatiagraph **in conversation** with your readings and other representations of cyberspace? Although this assignment is a non-traditional essay, it must fulfill the goals of the class and remain grounded in academic discourse. Your overall claim and creativity, your understanding of the readings, and your attention to audience will be key to this project.

Targeted outcomes: 1, 2, 3

Turn in: 2 pages (image + text)

Due: Tuesday, October 10