

**COJO 1000 – Intro. to Mass Media**  
**Content Interaction 3 (100 pts)**  
**Due: Mon. 11/21 by 11:59 p.m. in e-Companion Dropbox**

**OPTION 2**

**MEDIA ETHICS & FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Overview

For the third content interaction, you have a choice between two options. This is the explanation for Option 2.

You will watch a 10-minute clip from CNN's Anderson Cooper and 5-minute clip from CNN's Larry King Live about the *South Park* Muhammad cartoon controversy. Then, you will discuss your opinions about the controversy, your opinions about the pros and cons of freedom of expression, and your ideas about the future of media ethics.

Instructions

1. First, describe your understanding of satire.
  - What value do you think that satire has for society?
  - How often do you watch satirical shows (e.g., *The Colbert Report*, *The Daily Show*, *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy*, and *American Dad*), read satire (e.g., *The Onion*), or watch satirical movies (e.g., *Thank You For Smoking*)?
  - Why do you or don't you watch or read satire?
  - Have you ever been offended by any satire? If so, how?
2. Now, go to Anderson Cooper on CNN discussing the controversy:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh4mi2Ea\\_7o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh4mi2Ea_7o)
3. Had you heard of this controversy before viewing this video? Have you heard of similar controversies involving cartoon depictions of Muhammad before this video? Where did you learn about these controversies?
4. What are your general reactions to this controversy? Are you surprised by the controversy?
5. Do you have any sympathy for the group Revolution Muslim? Can you understand their anger about depicting Muhammad in a cartoon? Why do you think they made the threat on the South Park creators' life?
6. Go to Larry King Live on CNN and watch several comedians discuss the issue:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1SAI0NVEHQ&feature=related>

7. Which comedian(s) do you agree with the most? Which comedian(s) do you disagree with? Why?
8. If Islam forbids criticizing Muhammad, then should comedians satirize and mock Islam at all? Do you think that the creators of South Park should avoid depicting and featuring Muhammad? Do you think that satirists should avoid criticizing all religions? In other words, is religion above mockery and satiric criticism?
9. Think about the issues of censorship, freedom of expression, and satire that we discussed in class. What do you think should be valued the most? Why?

Guidelines

This paper should be 700-1,200 words, 2-4 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt font, and use 1-inch margins. Submit your paper to the dropbox on e-Companion labeled "CI 3".

Grading Rubric

Grade	Characteristics
A	Follows all of the requirements. Is between 700-1,200 words, 2-4 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt font, and 1-inch margins. Answers all of the required questions. Well-written, interesting, and engaging to read. No spelling and grammar errors. Displays excellent organization of ideas and opinions.
B	Follows all of the requirements. Is between 700-1,200 words, 2-4 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt font, and 1-inch margins. Answers all of the required questions. Well-written, interesting, and engaging to read. One to three spelling and grammar errors. Displays adequate organization of ideas and opinions.
C	Does not follow some of the requirements. Is not between 700-1,200 words, 2-4 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt font, and 1-inch margins. Does not answer some of the required questions. Poorly written at times and not engaging to read. More than four spelling and grammar errors. Displays inadequate organization of ideas and opinions.
D	Does not follow the requirements. Is not between 700-1,200 words, 2-4 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt font, and 1-inch margins. Does not answer most of the required questions. Poorly written and not engaging to read. More than seven spelling and grammar errors. Displays poor organization of ideas and opinions.
F	Incomplete work that is missing nearly all of the required information. More than ten spelling and grammar errors. Displays no organization of ideas and opinions.