

A “blog” is a Web log, or online diary.

Below are two samples from writer and conservative pundit Andrew Sullivan’s popular blog andrewsullivan.com.

Sullivan’s blog is posted in short, diary-like increments

Tuesday, July 08, 2003

HOROWITZ ON COULTER: Good for David for distancing himself from the dumb and ugly message of Ann Coulter’s latest book:

[Coulter’s use of the term] ‘functionally treasonable’ is ... disturbingly reminiscent of the old Stalinist term ‘objectively fascist.’ This was how people who swore their loyalty to the cause were condemned (often to death) if they deviated from the party line. Stalinists defined all dissent as ‘objectively’ treacherous. This is not a path that conservatives should follow. When intent and individuality are separated from actions in a political context, we are entering a totalitarian realm where Ann Coulter does not really want to be.

I wish I could be so sure about Coulter’s ultimate intentions. She strikes me in this book as a crazed fanatic. When she can equivocate over whether John F Kennedy was a traitor to his country, she has written herself out of rational discourse.

- 12:02:34 PM

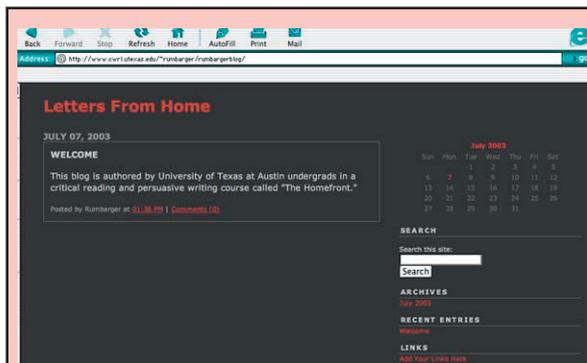
AHNULD: No, I haven’t seen T-3, but I hope to. The political emergence of Schwarzenegger is a wonderful development, and not just for hacks like yours truly who love a good story. Arnold is an “eagle”: he’s tough on terror, open-minded on cultural issues, fiscally conservative. He’s also a brilliant politician. How do I know? Just rent “Pumping Iron,” the legendary bodybuilding documentary of the 1970s. It captures Shwarzenegger’s extraordinary ease with people, his irony, his composure, his wit, his gift with strategy and his determination. If I’m not mistaken, it also shows him lighting up a big fat joint after one of the contests. If ever there was a moment for that type of Republican, this is it. Boomshock fills in the details. Arnold’s my man.

- 11:10:06 AM

He creates a discourse community by quoting and responding to others (“Good for David”)

His writing is bold, quick, personal.

Sullivan moves with confidence from politics to movies, asserting his ideas on a range of topics.



Our course blog, *Letters from Home*, will serve as an online discussion forum and an exercise in establishing a writing voice and producing direct, no-fat prose. Notably, thanks to the blog, students themselves will be producing an “alternative” rhetoric.

Wartime House

UT's Computer Writing and Research Lab hosts a Multi-User Domain, a virtual environment that allows multiple visitors to interact with each other and with the virtual places and objects that are part of that environment. Multi-User Domains are sometimes used in the classroom, for example, for role-playing projects and virtual tours of places that might be impossible to go in person. (I know one instructor whose class built and navigated Eliot's Waste Land.)

I'm in the process of creating a small neighborhood of 1940s London wartime houses in that Multi-User Domain. Students will occupy houses in groups of four, taking on and interacting through specific personas. They will be introduced to some course texts--such as BBC news broadcasts during the Blitz and the Queen's address to housewives--through the radios in their homes.

They also will be asked to prepare their homes for blackouts, cook a meal on wartime rations and evacuate their homes during an air raid.

This activity will engage them, I hope, affectively--even viscerally--in wartime London, the most time-distant of our homefronts. The Multi-User Domain can record all that the students do inside it, creating transcripts that students can site in their papers.

