

Politics, Society, and the Mass Media (POLS-3000)

Mid-term Test

Question: Neil Postman argues that image-based electronic media in general – and television in particular –are undermining literacy, context, and rational thought in public discourse. Similarly, Walter Ong argues that media-saturated societies are entering a mode of *secondary orality* in which literacy is subordinated to oral modes of thought.

Drawing from the work of these theorists, please provide an explanation (including one example) how image-based electronic media shape public discourse and democracy in the 21st century.

Deadline: The beginning of class on Feb 25

Word length: 500+ words (approx. 2 pages double-spaced) / Graphics can be included as supplements