On Having a Productive New Year

Have you ever been in a situation and thought, I’m too old for this. Wait. I’m too old AND too young for this! One such occasion happened to me at a concert in, let’s say, the late 90s. These middle-school-aged kids were trying for the whole concert to break the chairs. I mean, with all their might. Like they thought the band was Smashing Chairs.* And I thought, come on. Let’s be productive and constructive and use deductive reasoning, for example! All to say, I think this is an excellent motto for 2017. And to add, because this bathroom paper aims – along with its quest for truth and beauty – to promote the library, that you can be all kinds of productive on the 4th floor quiet floor or within the confines of your very own study carrel (keys available for 6-hour checkout at the Circulation Desk). Go forth, and if you must break chairs, make sure they are your own OR supplied by your manager in a WWE match.**

*I just read an interview with the singer of Smashing Pumpkins (no such interview was found of a singer of the Smashing Chairs) and, anyway. When humble pie was being passed out, Billy Corgan must have been like, “Nope. I didn’t bake that. Can’t be any good.” Maybe that’s why the kids were so mad at the chairs. It was a metaphor for ego-stomping. Let’s give the benefit of the doubt. Deep kids.

**Hi, Hulk Hogan!

Stranger than Fiction: Telling Real News from Fake

Do you know how to spot fake news? Learn to do your own sleuthing so you can sort out the fiction from real news. Join us in the library classroom (Rm 123) at 4pm on February 1st to develop your skills in an interactive workshop. Don't be duped! Get the scoop!

Cook Your Hot Topic Completely

Hot topics are a little like Hot Pockets. They get heated quickly, burn the roof of your mouth if you don’t give them time to cool, and are preserved in time via your persuasive papers OR glow-in-the-dark Philly steak. Sometimes, you get to choose what flavor you like, and sometimes you have to eat ham and cheese because it’s what is in the freezer and your professor really wants you to present BOTH the ham side AND the cheese side and bring us over to your side in a reasonable, logical, and well-microwaved way.*

We have a couple of databases (found in the A-Z list) that will help you choose a current event topic and present balanced views of both sides. They are:

- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- CQ Researcher

Try them out, and let me know what you think. Because, let’s face it. You may quit Hot Pockets after college, but critically thinking about what’s happening and backing it up with research? That’s a HOT skill, my friend, and why be cool when you can be sizzling? From the inside.**

*The answer is cheese, people.

**Then you can walk around and say, “I AM the Hot Pocket.” Which I hear yields lifelong friendships and riches. The End.