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ENGCMP 0610: Composing Digital Media

Blog 1 Prompt

There are countless numbers of remixed forms of media in today’s world. Lawrence Lessig defines remixed media as “sounds over images, or video over text, or text over sounds. The quotes thus get mixed together. The mix produces the new creative work—the ‘remix.’” He states that most forms of these remixes are in television shows, films and music videos. Based off of his description of a remix and my own personal experience in digital media interaction, I believe that one of my favorite television shows, *South* *Park*, is an apt description of a remix. South Park is a fictional animation that depicts a small town located in Colorado. The show has a strong allegorical component to it, and many current events are made fun of in South Park, which is one of the reasons why the show has lasted 19 seasons. The writers of the show use their depicted setting and relate current events happening in today’s society in an amusing and insolent tone that makes for the perfect comedy. I consider it a remix because it blends current events with modern technology and blends that into the stereotypical modern day family. Most episodes of the show mix 2 or more subjects together as well. The show transforms the medias setting because rather than just trying to make the audience laugh, the writers also portray their opinions about current events, in the hopes that their spectators will agree with them. The writers of the show tend to focus on one aspect of the subject they intend to comically portray on their show, given that they only have 21 minutes in a show. For example, in the first episode of season 19, the elementary school teacher Mr. Garrison is concerned with the increased number of Canadian immigrants in the town. Throughout the episode he acts more and more boisterous towards them and finally decides that he will run for president in order to fix what he sees as a problem. His solution is to “put up a wall.” This is intended to poke fun at Donald Trumps actions during the presidential campaign and his solutions to current political debates in America. The Canadians are used as a symbol for Mexican immigrants. In the same episode, the character Mr. Garrison debates with a highly liberal college student who as been assigned to be the new school principle named PC Principal. Overall I believe the show does a suitable job in combining multiple events that are trending issues in America into a fictional and comical story, and signifying how such events could possibly create drama and sometimes chaos in a small town.