Summary and Prompt: Cultural Identity Projected in the Virtual World

**Week Four Introduction:**

Welcome to week four with a group discussion led by Dan Bader and Mary Schmitt. Our focus is about cultural identity projected in the virtual world. The readings from Miller and Reed during week four provided insight on digital inequality, inclusions, and exclusions by way of technology and the virtual world. We found that the even though there are great accomplishments in the area of digital access for those with disabilities there is still is not universal access. This is a digital divide which is the “gap between those who do and those who do not have access to computers and the internet” (Miller, 2011, p. 98). We found it alarming that over “60 percent of websites remain inaccessible to people with disabilities (90% were inaccessible in 2001)” (Reed, 2014, p. 102). These facts contribute to the growing concern of digital inequality, inclusions, and exclusions.

Please take the time to view our

**Week Four Video Introduction Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP4GF5U__lE&feature=youtu.be>

**Case Study Video:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7hGYRoVxig

**Case Study Questions:**

1. In what ways does this video show the cultural biases that underly the Internet?

2. What does this confession say about digital culture?

3. Is Katie a victim of a built-in digital cultural bias or is she taking advantage of the anonymity that the internet provides? Has Katie been hurt or helped by the internet?

**Week Four’s Agenda:**

Throughout week four we will moderate the discussion board and assist in guiding our discussion throughout the week. In addition, we will post new content to further expand the discussion about digital inequality, inclusions, and exclusions. We are looking forward to the discussion this week and thank you in advance for your participation.

References

Actually Happened. (2018, December 24) I’m Disabled But I’m Faking Like I’m Not. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7hGYRoVxig

Miller, V. (2011). Understanding Digital Culture. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Reed, T. V. (2014). Digitized lives: Culture, power and social change in the internet era. New York, NY: Routledge.