

SECOND PAPER TOPIC

Requirements

1. Please write a five-page paper in response to **ONE** of the topics below. The text should be double-spaced. A hard copy version of the paper is due by week #14.
2. Your paper must be computer-processed. Please give your paper a title, and write your name on the back of the last page. Do not write your name elsewhere on the paper. **All pages should be numbered.**
3. Citations to texts read in this course should be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to a passage on page 13 of Epstein's *Book Business*, indicate this in the following manner at the end of your sentence, after the period: (Epstein, 13). Full citations to any work not assigned in class should be made in footnote or endnote form. For more suggestions, see the guide to editing.

Topics

1. In *Book Business*, Jason Epstein writes: "The convergence of the Internet with the instantaneous transmission and retrieval of digital text is an epochal event, comparable to the impact of movable type on European civilization half a millenium ago, but with worldwide implications." (p. 179) Write an essay in which you explain why you find this comparison apt, or inapt.
2. In *Republic.com*, Cass Sunstein argues that in its current configuration, the Internet could seriously degrade democracy in the United States. Write a response to Sunstein in which you argue that examples from the first several centuries of printing in the west either support or contradict his argument. [Note: make sure you briefly summarize Sunstein's argument at the outset of your paper.]