New Media Writing

Stroupe

**Lev Manovich’s Chapter 5, Part 1**

Working with a classmate, choose two quotations out of the eight below, and read them closely in the book. Read *around* the quotations to gather more context and detail.

Talk about how the two quotations speak to the following questions.

Take notes, and be prepared to explain your answers to the class.

**The Questions**

1. How do the two quotations help explain what Manovich claims about narrative and database: that they are "natural enemies" and that modern media is a "battleground" between them.
2. How might the quotations help explain how this "battle" between "natural enemies" is not just textual and technological, but human and social?
3. What connections do the two quotations make with other ideas or examples: in the chapter, in the book, in the class, in your major, in 2013 culture, etc.

**The Eight Key Quotations**

* 215.1 "True cultural forms--general ways used....human existence in this world."
* 219.5 "Indeed, after the death of God (Nietzche)...model it as a database"
* 217.1 "If traditional cultures provided people with well defined narratives...tie it all together."
* 225.6 "As a cultural form, the database represents the world as a list of items... natural enemies.... make meaning out of the world."
* 226.4 "In general, creating a work in new media can be understood as the construction of an interface to a database."
* 233.8 "I prefer to think of them as two competing imaginations two basic...long before modern media."
* 234.4 "Modern media is the new battlefield for the competition between database and narrative."
* 243.7 "Thus in the hands of Vertov, the database….how to merge database and narrative into a new form."