Stroupe

New Media Writing

**Birkerts and Murray**

Choose a particular passage in which Birkerts identifies one issue, question, or concern about New Media, and then find two or three instances where Murray speaks to that issue, question or concern.

⎯ What do these pairings of passages from Birkerts and Murray reveal about the differences between traditional and New Media?

⎯ What other specific lines and passages from Murray help explain and elaborate her response? (Write the page numbers and a few key words from the additional quotation in the right margin.)

**Example:**

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| **Birkerts**  "This is it, no?  The **densities of meaning** once conferred, since leached out.  Our passage into bright contemporaneity has carried a price: The more complex and sophisticated our **system of** **lateral** **access**, the more we sacrifice in the **way of** **depth"** (Birkers 26). | **Murray**  “To Weizenbaum’s dismay, a wide range of people, including his own secretary, would “demand to be permitted to converse with the [ELIZA] system in private, and would, after conversing with it for a time, insist, in spite of [Weizenbaum’s] explanations, that the machine really understood them” (71).  “In an interactive medium, the interpretive framework is embedded in the rules by which the system works and in the way in which participation is shaped” (89).  “Current narrative applications overexploit the digressive possibilities of hypertext and the gamellike features of simulation, but that is not surprising in an incunabular medium. As digital narrative develops into maturity, the associational wildernesses will acquire more coherence and the combat games will give way to the portrayal of more complex processes” (93). |