

23 March 2011

Dearest Eric,

Hey, dude. Cool topic. Here are my thoughts.

Make sure you get the details of the Colbert-Stewart rally right. The two are from totally different shows, as far as I know, that have opposite political leanings. In other words, they're pretty much rivals. And my understanding (though it may be wrong) was that Stewart was planning a rally first, then Colbert started planning a rival rally at the same time, and then eventually they met up and agreed to make it just one big rally. (Carrie was there, by the way.) So it seems like the story you told would be people wanting Colbert to do a rally in response to Stewart's? It's still a good example of what you're talking about, in any case.

I don't use Digg or Reddit, though I have heard of them and encountered them occasionally, so it was interesting to learn about them. You did a good job of explaining how they work, but more examples would be cool (who am I to talk?).

On the social networking, I strongly recommend that you use the earthquake-tsunami in Japan as your main example. Before traditional journalists were able to get a bearing on what was going on, millions of people were Tweeting or using Facebook not only to contact their loved ones but to share experiences and information with everyone. The proliferation of smartphones, almost all with Twitter and Facebook apps built in, only made this easier. I remember seeing a YouTube video somewhere that a guy took as the earthquake was happening, with him swearing and ducking down under his desk and everything. Here's an article I read about it from a journalist there about her use of the social networks:

<http://nyti.ms/dWhLZH>

That's all I got.

Good work. Captain Planet would be proud. (Don't ask me why.)

Sincerely,

John Patrick Pray, I