

14 March 2011

Dear Lauren,

First of all, let me say that I think you've picked a great topic and that you're clearly qualified to talk about it. I'm a big Harry Potter fan myself (who isn't?), though definitely not to the extent you are—I only have cursory knowledge of the fan communities you're talking about in your paper, some (like wizard rock) more than others. Your enthusiasm shines through and I think it aids you greatly.

Now for my suggestions.

First, before anything else, I think you should do a basic introduction of the *Harry Potter* series and of each of the fan sites/projects you're talking about in your paper. Just introduce and briefly describe each one so that readers who aren't familiar with them can better imagine them when you talk about what they've done later on – an “information base”, if you will. It also lets you spend less time introducing the works/sites/communities later when what you really want to do is talk about what they've *done*.

As genuinely interesting as they are, I don't think fan fiction and wizard rock warrant sections on their own (at least as they are) in the context of your paper. I'd recommend that you emphasize the whole charity thing—everything else is just supporting information and evidence for that.

The real story as I see it is that millions of fans of a *children's fictional book series* came together thanks to the Internet, grew up together, and started applying the values extolled in the books (selflessness, equality, etc.) in the real world in big ways by working together. This kind of thing's never been seen before, even when other series (*Lord of the Rings*, *Star Trek*) brought out strong feelings in people and made them want to come together. There was no Internet then to make it possible for those people to connect and to translate those shared values into real action.

But there is now, just in time for Harry Potter, and that's the exciting thing here: “little people” sharing common values being able to come together to accomplish big things, without major endorsement by big corporations or governments.

Can't wait to see how your paper comes out.

Disapparatingly,

John Pray