Bill Wolff
Technologies and the Future of Writing, spring 2012
Discussion Questions for Bolter, Jenkins, Nardi & O'Day, and Gee

Using the texts as guide, please answer these questions as thoroughly as you can. We will then come back to the group as a whole to discuss.

1. What are "technologies of writing" or "writing technologies" according to Bolter?

2. Define "writing space," "remediation," "information ecology," and "semiotic domains" and think about where we might see these terms enacted in online spaces.

3. In what ways do "participatory cultures" take advantage of the terms and ideas from questions 1 and 2?

4. Each group will be assigned one of the following writing spaces: spiral notebook, Microsoft Word, email, text message, Facebook Status Update. Then, complete the following:
    a. Describe the purpose of this space. Why do people use it to write?
    b. Describe in detail the ways in which the physical characteristics of the space (the borders, the lines, the shape, the location, and so on) constrain the kinds of writing that can be done in it.
    c. Which writing technologies does it successfully attempt remediate? How?
    d. Which writing technologies does it unsuccessful attempt to remediate? How?