

Performative Writing as Tool for Social Change

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Writing is vehicle for communicating thoughts and ideas, however it can also maintain the status quo. Traditional ways of writing only recognizes those most privileged in society leaving others marginalized. Using the theoretical texts of other scholars, this paper argues that performative and other alternative styles of writing opens the door to different perspectives. Although performative writing can be challenging for both the writer and the reader, it may be a step towards giving recognition to voices often unheard and ignored. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2014 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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According to the Critical Art Ensemble, in our society (a pancapitalist society), “the education system and the media have become the dominant institutions of socialization” (14). If this is the case, and I believe it is, it is important to look to these institutions to see what it takes to ‘succeed’ and whether or not this ‘success’ can be challenged. I would argue that the single most important thing in both these institutions is the ability to communicate or use language ‘effectively’. More specifically, education emphasizes the need to write in a way that prescribes to certain established norms. The media reinforces these norms in their hiring practices and in deciding what is fit to print or televise, ultimately

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