Research Assignment: Alter-Globalization Movements

The third research assignment will be more similar to the first than to the second. I am asking you to locate and evaluate a document from an anti- or alter-globalization social movement. A good place to start is the “Alter-Globalization Resources” link from the course Webpage. For this assignment you can either locate a critical essay (for example there are many analytical essays available on the World Social Forum site in their Library of Alternatives), or you can analyze materials from one of the alter-globalization groups themselves. Though you are welcome to use library resources for this assignment, you should also feel free to locate materials on the Web. In fact, Websites themselves (or portions of Websites) may prove rich “documents” for you to analyze, though in addition to analyzing the issues of alter-globalization, working with Web materials will involve some degree of theorizing the nature of digital media. For instance, and article posted to a Website may be quite similar to an article published in a journal (many articles are available in both forms). But if you chose to analyze a Website—for example, say you choose to work with the Yes Men’s GATT spoof, or the Acción Zapatista Website—your analysis will need to assess the Website as a Website, that is assess how the form of the document affects its purposes, objectives, audiences, arguments, content, etc.

Like the other short research assignments, you will need to write up a short (500-700 word or 2-3 double-spaced typed pages) description and analysis of your research. Roughly half of this response should be a concise, accurate, fair summary of the document. This may be a summary of its major arguments. It may also be a description of a project that includes relevant contextual information about the organization who produced the document. Briefly citing textual evidence to clarify the nature of the chosen document may be helpful here. The second half of your paper should be an analytical response to the document, in which you evaluate, critique, or make claims about its broader significance and/or implications. Here, again, taking up specifics from the text will be important. As with the first two assignments, I am asking you to make an argument about the document you select. Your analysis should have a thesis. You should stake out a position in relation to the material and develop/support that position with textual evidence.

Logistics:
If you are using a printed resource, please provide a photocopy. If you have located material on the Web, include a full URL. Due at the beginning of class on December 2