

1. boyd, danah. "Can Social Network Sites Enable Political Action?" *It's Time to Reboot America*. n.d. Web.  
<<http://rebooting.personaldemocracy.com/node/5493>>.

danah boyd (who writes her name with no capitals) is a Social Media Researcher at Microsoft Research New England and a Fellow at Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Her research is largely focused on social media and youth practices. She has studied how teenagers socialize in networked publics and has more recently studied Twitter, blogging, social network sites, tagging, and other forms of social media. As such, her work is definitely something to dig into while researching for my paper. I expect that not everything she has to offer will be useful, but I do expect to find some gems amid the mess. Her essay *Can Social Network Sites Enable Political Action?* seemed like an essay that would fit my research. After reading it I can say that though it might not be as helpful as the following two sources, it can be used to further emphasize that social media is a valid tool for social change. She argues within the essay that instead of focusing on why social media may hurt society we should instead focus on using these tools to further individuals' communal and civic lives. This essay will also potentially help with some aspects of my paper where I want to segue towards the arguments against my thesis, as in some ways danah appears neutral and accepting of both sides. I haven't read this entire essay, I've just skimmed it, so I expect to also find little sentences here and there that tend to be helpful even if the whole essay is in the less helpful category.

2. Sharp, Gene. *From Dictatorship to Democracy: A Conceptual Framework for Liberation*. 4th ed. East Boston, MA: The Albert Einstein Institution, 2010. Web.

Gene Sharp's *From Dictatorship to Democracy* is an essay that was first published in 2002 and has since been updated in 2003, 2008, and 2010. It has also been translated into a multitude of languages from Sharp's native English and circulated worldwide as a result. I personally look at this essay as more of a handbook than essay, it is something meant to be kept close at hand and used in planning and executing nonviolent social revolutions. Sharp outlines his theories on nonviolent social revolution in the form of using them to change a government from a dictatorship to a democracy, as such this handbook will be a key resource for my paper. This handbook is cleanly organized into chapters that walk you through the process of nonviolent social revolution. Sharp's theories are able to help us deconstruct what has happened in Tunisia's and Egypt's recent revolutions. Sharp is the Professor Emeritus of political science at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and Nobel Peace Prize nominee. He is known for his extensive writings on nonviolent struggle that have influenced numerous anti-government movements worldwide. Sharp describes his sources of ideas as in-depth studies of Gandhi and Thoreau. Sharp's key theory is that power does not derive from some intrinsic quality of those who are in power. Given his worthy scholarship and massive influence on nonviolent movements, Sharp's theories are not ones I'd try to counter.

This handbook will be hugely helpful in tying up my paper with Peace Studies as well as providing the basis for historical comparison.

3. Shirky, Clay. *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing without Organizations*. New York, NY: Penguin Group, 2009. Print.

Clay Shirky's *Here Comes Everybody* is described by some in the field as "the bible of the social-media movement" (Malcolm Gladwell, *Small Change*). The book talks in depth, using stories in some places, to discuss the intersection of technological innovation (social media) and social change. When it comes to the portion of my paper discussing ways in which people can and have used social media to help social revolutions I think reading Shirky's book will be a must. Shirky studies the effects of the Internet on society while holding a joint appointment at NYU as an Associate Arts Professor at the Interactive Telecommunications Program and as a Distinguished Writer in Residence in the Journalism Department. In this book Shirky talks about crowdsourcing and collaborative efforts online. He describes 4 key steps in this process. The first is sharing stuff online and then coming together around certain types; Second is the conversation to learn more about something and get better at it; Third is collaboration where a group forms under the purpose of some common effort; Finally there is collective action. This is largely still in the future and a key point here is that the fate of the group as a whole becomes important. Shirky has popularized the concept of cognitive surplus, the time freed from watching television that can be more productive when applied to other social endeavors. Overall this book will hopefully be a wealth of information that is key to understanding how social media is affecting social change.