

April 4, 2022

LEAKED: NEW AMAZON WORKER CHAT APP WOULD BAN WORDS LIKE “UNION,” “RESTROOMS,” “PAY RAISE,” AND “PLANTATION”

Also: “Grievance,” “slave labor,” “This is dumb,” “living wage,”
“diversity,” “vaccine,” and others.

Amazon will block and flag employee posts on a planned internal messaging app that contain keywords pertaining to labor unions, according to internal company documents reviewed by The Intercept. An automatic word monitor would also block a variety of terms that could represent potential critiques of Amazon’s working conditions, like “slave labor,” “prison,” and “plantation,” as well as “restrooms” — presumably related to reports of [Amazon employees relieving themselves in bottles](#) to meet punishing quotas... [READ MORE](#)

How to have the concision of Lorine Niedecker, yet write projectively? In this exercise try to see if you can use Creeley-esque/Niedeckerian concision to write a poem using words that Amazon is said to have banned from their messaging app. The banned words allegedly are:

*I hate
Union
Fire
Terminated
Compensation
Pay Raise
Bullying
Harassment
I don’t care
Rude
This is concerning
Stupid
This is dumb
Prison
Threat*

*Petition
Grievance
Injustice
Diversity
Ethics
Fairness
Accessibility
Vaccine
Senior Ops
Living Wage
Representation
Unfair
Favoritism
Rate*

*TOT
Unite/unity
Plantation
Slave
Slave labor
Master
Concerned
Freedom
Restrooms
Robots
Trash
Committee
Coalition*

You might go on a tangent trying to figure out why TOT would be banned. See: <http://acronymsandslang.com/meaning-of/chat-and-sub-cultures/Tot.html>

You might use the “word cloud” effect to see how combinations of the words above lead to phrases/perceptions in your poem.

Once you have written the poem, read the poem and see if there are small words, conjunctions for example, that could be eliminated. Consider taking out words like that but leaving blank space in the poem where the removed word was. This will add to the field composition effect.

Can this poem be a part of your saturation job? A poem we write ALWAYS has clues as to our own personal mythology. Writing projectively, we are given access to realms that can reveal parts of our own myth to our conscious selves.

How can this poem be something deeper than an Amazon-bashing poem that perhaps considers the role of AI in our lives. (It may be hard to overlook the pissing-in-bottles-culture that Amazon has created, especially after you’ve actually seen those bottles on the street outside your house.)

How is the poem a deeper act than AI?

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For
Life As Rehearsal
For the Poem

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