System Analysis

The system that I am going to use for my system analysis is the St. Bonaventure parking and driving system. This system has a lot of negative controversy to it is that it is ineffective to the students here at St. Bonaventure. There are some ways that I do believe it is effective such as the driving aspect of keeping everyone as safe as possible. The parking system though, causes the student here a lot of stress, heartache, and money.

The parking system does not help out students, especially the underclassmen and student-athletes. The underclassmen are allowed to bring their cars here unlike other campuses that require you to be older than a freshman, some schools even requiring you to be a senior. The reason for this is that it saves parking spots on campus and gives people with far more options to park when going somewhere on campus. With the underclassmen being able to bring their cars it means there are fewer spots available. On top of having the underclassmen being able to drive, there are also not a lot of parking spaces on campus for students to begin with. I feel that if there was a restriction to underclassmen and their cars there wouldn’t be this much stress. There are some days, as a senior that I have to leave 30-20 minutes early for a class that I am less than 2 minutes away from driving. Not only does this parking cause stress on the upperclassmen but also on the freshman class. They don’t have parking right out of their dorms. Their parking is a 5-7-minute walk from the dorms. Many people don’t think of this as a big deal but when you’re walking by yourself at night it can be intimidating, even if you are walking with someone. I also don’t want to forget to mention that in St. Bonaventure the winter gets pretty horrible. If someone has groceries and they are trying to carry them they may slip, fall, or they may get frostbite.

Student-athletes have the same issue with not enough parking spots. I am a softball player here at St. Bonaventure and have experienced this frustration the past four years here. There are not enough spots and the majority of spots by the field are in the heart of campus, so they are always taken by people in class and the remaining majority of spots are faculty. This causes major stress because if athletes are late to their practices, it is comparable to being late to your job. For practice, I have leave 20-30 minutes early when it is only a 2-minute drive. I don’t have a lot of time, to begin with, so the odds are I’m coming from class and could be fueling myself with food instead of looking for a spot and making time for myself to walk across campus.

After reading through Gee, I believe that the SBU parking and driving system falls underneath semiotic domains. The campus of SBU uses signs to represent what we can do within the parking system. For example, if you pull in to a spot and it has a sign that reads “faculty and staff parking”, it symbolizes the twenty-five dollars you have to pay if you decide to stay in that spot being a student. Another example is the ground has lines on it with car-sized spaces between the lines. These spaces and lines symbolize where you have to park. It doesn’t say on the ground “park here” you simply just know to park there, between the lines and in the spaces, without instruction.

Another important symbol on this campus within the driving system is the stop sign. Although the sign does indeed say “stop” in capital letters, it doesn’t go into full detail. When seeing the stop sign, it holds the symbolic meanings: I have to stop before I move forward in my car, when I stop I have to make sure no one is coming, if someone is at the stop sign before I get there, that person can go first and vice versa if I get there first, if I go through the stop sign I can cause harm to myself or other, I can get a ticket if I don’t stop at the stop sign.

This system is important to the world because is it a similar system used the “real world” such as cities, countryside, and the suburbs. After analyzing the system, I think that it would beneficial to expand the number of parking spaces on campus. It would help the underclassmen, upperclassmen, and student-athletes.