


# The Rhetoric and Role of Hunter S. Thompson



View/Open

 [HST\\_Front\\_Matter.pdf](#) (20.97Kb)

Downloads: 106

 [Daniel\\_Grubb\\_-\\_The\\_Rhetoric\\_and\\_Role\\_of\\_Hunter\\_S.\\_Thompson.pdf](#) (543.1Kb)

Downloads: 444

Date

2006-04-14

Author

Grubb, Daniel Jason

Metadata

[Show full item record](#)

Abstract

An examination of Hunter S. Thompson's writing with the goal of defining gonzo journalism as a distinct entity from New Journalism. This is achieved via a rhetorical analysis of Thompson's writing, highlighting influences from literary figures such as Cervantes, Chaucer, Dos Passos, and Swift.

URI

<http://hdl.handle.net/10919/32372>

Collections

[Masters Theses](#) [19192]

If you believe that any material in VTechWorks should be removed, please see our [policy and procedure for Requesting that Material be Amended or Removed](#). All takedown requests will be promptly acknowledged and investigated.

[Virginia Tech](#) | [University Libraries](#) | [Contact Us](#)

On February 16, 2005, Hunter S. Thompson was sitting in his home in Woody Creek, Colorado. Football season had just ended, which always left him morose, but he was also suffering from surgery-related pain in his hip and back, which made walking difficult—to say nothing of his favorite activities, swimming and blowing things up. Instead, the then 67-year-old author composed a typewritten note addressed to himself: No More Games. No More Bombs. No More Walking. No More Fun. No More Swimming. 67. That is 17 years past 50. 17 more than I needed or wanted. Boring. I am always bitchy. No Fun—for any "On the Weird Mechanics of Running a Takeover Bid on a Small Town. . . and a Vulgar Argument for Seizing Political Power and Using It like a Gun Ripped Away from a Cop. . . with Jangled Comments on the Uncertain Role of the Head and the Awful Stupor Factor". He Was a Crook. "Richard Nixon is gone now, and I am poorer for it. He was the real thing - a political monster straight out of Grendel..." On Crime. The Motorcycle Gangs. "Ever since World War II, California has been strangely plagued by wild men on motorcycles. They usually travel in groups of ten to thirty, boom Hunter Stockton Thompson (1937–2005), aside from being someone we all might aspire to be one day, was a journalist, writer, small-time politician, drug abuser, heavy drinker, chain-smoking, gun-toting explosion-liker and all round nice guy. He quickly rose to fame after writing his seminal work, Hells Angels — A Strange and Terrible Saga, which describes the time he spent riding around with the Hells Angels motorcycle club. He became quite close friends with the Oakland chapter and then Hells Angels How Hunter S. Thompson Became a Legend. He had a briefcase of drugs and a supreme command of language – and as he defined his legacy at Rolling Stone, he changed journalism in the process. By. Patrick Doyle. Thompson was born in Louisville, Kentucky, served in the Air Force, and worked as a journalist in Puerto Rico before moving to San Francisco, where an article about the Hells Angels turned into a book project. He spent almost two years riding with the outlaw motorcycle gang, and in 1966 he published a bestseller that took readers deep inside a subculture largely inaccessible to the outside world.