

January 13, 2013

Jane Doe
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Jefferson City, TN 37760

Professor James Simpson, General Editor
Oxford English Dictionary
Oxford University Press
Great Clarendon Street
Oxford OX2 6DP, United Kingdom

Dear Professor Simpson:

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Jane Doe, and I am an amateur linguist studying the history of the English language at Carson-Newman College in Tennessee. I am writing regarding a new word that has begun appearing in English publications, and I feel this term deserves inclusion in the third edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. In this case, the word is *Whedonism*. Please see the enclosed sample entry I have provided attached to this letter.

As you can see from the proposed sample entry, the word is an eponym, coming from the name of Hollywood screenwriter Josh Whedon. Mr. Whedon's work includes televised episodes of *Lost*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *The Doll House*, and *Firefly*, as well as films like *Serenity* and *Aliens 3*. As a screenwriter, Whedon is known particularly for well-crafted dialogue—especially in contrast to the poorly written dialogue that is so common in mass-market action films and television series.

A *Whedonism* is thus a section of unexpectedly well-written dialogue marked by clever phrases suitable for a specific character. This term meets the normal qualifications for inclusion in the *OED*. I have documented examples of it in multiple print sources including magazine articles on Hollywood movies, newspaper articles, editorial reviews of Josh Whedon's movies, and other hardcopy publications (see enclosed copies). The first recorded usage I have found is from a film review in the *Los Angeles Times*, dated February 22, 1996.

Since then, in the last two decades, I have found over a dozen representative print sources using the word. All these editors, film reviewers, or other commentators have used this term in published or printed material. I would argue there are several reasons why this word is likely to increase in common use, as follows.

[Student here presents an extra page or so of discussion.]

Thank you for your time, and I wish you the best of luck with the third edition.

Yours respectfully,

Jane Doe

ENCL (2): Sample *OED* entry for *Whedonism*
 Collection of illustrative examples in print