

Spring 2011

Blogging Assignment: Reading Reflections

Cynara M. Medina

Trinity University, cmedina1@trinity.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/infolit_grantdocs

Repository Citation

Medina, Cynara M., "Blogging Assignment: Reading Reflections" (2011). *Information Literacy Resources for Curriculum Development*. 7.
https://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/infolit_grantdocs/7

This Instructional Material is brought to you for free and open access by the Information Literacy Committee at Digital Commons @ Trinity. It has been accepted for inclusion in Information Literacy Resources for Curriculum Development by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Trinity. For more information, please contact jcostanz@trinity.edu.

Assignment description:

Starting week two, you will be involved in a blogging community. This assignment has two parts. For the first part, you are expected to start a blog in which you will you're your reflections about the readings for that week. For the second part, you will be required to read and comment on the blogs of your classmates. Please read the following instructions carefully, as they are the basis for assessment in this class.

Requirements – your personal reflections:

Your reflections should include the following:

1. Brief introduction in which you identify the readings for the week (5% of your grade). The introduction should end with a clear statement indicating your opinion about the work (i.e, I agree with author A because...; I disagree with author B because...)
2. Analysis of the readings (40% of your grade)
 - a. Information about the authors: What are their major areas of research? How are/have been these authors' works generally received?¹
 - b. Do the authors present a convincing argument in support of their position? Critique at least one example of evidence *presented in the reading*. How does it support the analysis?
3. Personal reflection (40% of your grade)
 - a. Which idea in the readings did you find most intriguing, interesting, and/or challenging? Why?
 - b. How do the readings relate to each other and/or class discussions?
 - c. After reading the articles, what is position in regards to the subject? Why? You must present evidence and examples to support your argument.²
4. Conclusion (5% of your grade)
 - a. What did you learn from the readings, and how does it help your understanding of media audiences and/or audience research?
5. Writing mechanics (5% of your grade)
 - a. You have less than three (3) spelling and/or grammatical mistakes.
 - b. Your writing is clearly organized, coherent, and follows a logical sequence.
6. Citations and references (5% of your grade)
 - a. You cite all the sources used in the response, and include a list of references at the end of the paper (in APA style).

¹ Refer to published reviews of the author's work to answer this question.

² Please note that *your personal experience* is not strong *evidence*. Strong evidence can include: (1) other accounts published in academic literature; (2) opinions/analysis/reviews, etc., published in the industry trade press (i.e. *Broadcasting & Cable, Hollywood Reporter, or Variety*), or in reputable mainstream publications (i.e., *The New York Times, Washington Post, etc.*); (3) Blogs that meet quality criteria that will be discussed in class.

7. Optional (no grade)
 - a. If the article relates to your interests for this class, how will you use it for your own research?
 - b. Do you have any questions about the reading, which you would like to have addressed in class?

Requirements – blog comments

You will be assigned to a blogging group, and will be responsible for reading and commenting *only* on the blogs of your group mates. You should leave at least one comment to one of these blogs per week. Please bear in mind the following guidelines:

1. Your comments should be positive and respectful. If you disagree, offer a reasoned explanation as to why you disagree.
2. Your comments should add to the conversation. You should refer to specific ideas in the original post, and let the author know how they made you think, and helped you understand the issues discussed in class. Your goal is to provide feedback to the original author, and to engage him/or her in meaningful conversation through your blogs.

Blog comments are pass/fail assignments. To receive full credit, they should be by 5 p.m. on Thursdays.

Instructions for setting up your blog:

By now, you have received an invitation to join the course blog. Please make sure you respond to it, as you will not be able to access class content otherwise. The main course blog can be found at <http://mediaaudiencestu2011.blogspot.com/>. This site will host resources, and I will be posting weekly summaries and comments.

You will also need to create a personal blog at Blogger. You can do that by going to blogger.com and either signing in with your Google account, or creating a new Google account for yourself. Email me the link to your blog as soon as you're set up so I can add you to the main site. You will be assigned to a blogging group, and will be responsible for reading and commenting on the blogs of the other members of your group. You will also be given instructions as to how to set privacy settings so that they can only be accessed by people who are registered in this course.