

RMIT University  
Faculty of Art Design and Communication  
School of Applied Communication  
Advanced Seminar  
journal assessment protocol

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course area:	Media Studies
course code:	COMM 1075
course name:	Advanced Seminar
year offered:	2004
assessment task:	journal
submission date:	5pm Monday October 25
value:	30% of final mark
background:	<p>The purpose of a journal is to document what you are doing in a subject. It is to let you note whatever you think you need to note about what you're learning, how you're learning, interesting problems you come across, and so on. It includes good and bad news, things that excite and frustrate. Because it is written over time you are able to view old entries and see a record of the problems, issues, interest and learning that has happened during the life of the course.</p>
task:	<p>To maintain a journal documenting your work, ideas, and problems during your advanced seminar research and project. You are expected to write regularly throughout the semester.</p> <p>The journal is to be written during class and in your own time. It can include writing, sketches, pictures, scraps, and so on.</p>
process:	<p>The journal should include references you find (online and print bound), notes about them, ideas about your research, things that interest you and possibly even things that bother you.</p> <p>As a semi public writing space your entries need to be more than cryptic notes to yourself, they need to be able to be understood, potentially, by anyone. This is helpful because it means that what you write needs to be articulate enough to be still sensible for yourself in three months time, and so probably still relevant to your work. As you write you are not able to make a brief note that only you understand, and this means you have to put 'flesh' on your ideas, opinions and thoughts. In writing these out with the collateral requirement that they are understandable for others, you must write to and with your ideas in a manner that requires you, through the demand of writing, to interrogate them (or for them to interrogate you!).</p> <p>However, this does not mean that entries are meant to be essays. They can be as short or as long as necessary, as formal or informal as your topic, context, and mood, demands.</p> <p>Your journal will be effective only if it is used regularly.</p>
assessment criteria:	<p>Your journals will be assessed around a range of criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your journal will regularly reflect insights, questions, and problems</li></ul>

related to your research problem and project

- You will have begun to develop your own 'voice'. This 'voice' will be expressed in what you write, and how you write. It will not be personal raves, it will not be mini essays, it will be a style that you will have developed through writing and thinking

Academic requirements

- Your writing will document your reading (books, essays, web pages)
- Your writing will comment and describe your reading
- Your writing will explore problems in your research and project
- Your writing will test and experiment your ideas
- Your writing will engage in detailed reflection about your own research and work practices
- Your writing will explore

Journals will be randomly audited throughout the semester. If the journal is not being maintained you will forfeit this component of your final mark. This is not negotiable.

assessment method:

You will submit your journal with an appropriate cover sheet by 5pm Monday October 25. This is to include:

An exegetical summary highlighting what you found most effective in using the journal, least effective, and what things changed during the course of the semester that you recognised through using your journal.

Nominate 6 journal entries that best meet the assessment criteria and the assessment matrix (to be provided). Your journal will be primarily assessed against these entries.

(Geoff King and Adrian Miles, July 2004)