

The Blog!

Everything you wanted to know

Introduction

During the next few weeks we will be creating and maintaining our own blogs and using them to provide opinion and analysis on unique topics and themes. Each week we will set aside one day to work on our blogs in class, but you will find that you need to do some work at home as well to ensure that you have done enough research and reading to say something interesting about your chosen topic. If you have questions about what a well-written blog should look like, check out any of the blogs at the New York Times at blog.nytimes.com.

The Requirements

A successful blog project will have the following:

- A **minimum of 5** unique entries
- At **least 3 links** per entry
- At **least 1 image or video** per entry
- Commentary** (analysis) that explains the significance of the information represented by each link
- Opinion and analysis** of the subject.
- A **blogroll** which links to at least 5 other blogs.

Additionally, each student will be responsible for posting **at least 2 comments per week** on other students' blogs. These comments should be insightful, and demonstrate that the commenter really understands the opinion of the writer.

Some Basic Tips

Make sure that your blogs follow these basic guidelines:

1. Have a title for each entry. Titles should reflect the content of the post.
2. Make sure that your ideas are your own. Nobody wants to read a parrot.
3. Connect to, the elaborate on, others' ideas.
4. Embed media! Give us pictures, videos, audio, whatever.
Warning! Be crazy careful of copyright! Remember to look for Creative Commons Licenses.
5. Communicate clearly and succinctly. Keep it short, to the point, and direct.
6. Make sure that your blog is **legible**.
 - Fonts should be clear and appropriately sized.
 - Paragraphs should be clearly separated.
 - Pictures should be neatly placed into the post. Nothing pixelated, stretched, or otherwise ugly.
 - Links should all work.
 - Sidebars, widgets, headers, footers, and whatever else you add should also not be ugly.
 - Actually, nothing on your page should be ugly. (No green font on blue backgrounds).
7. Proof read. Nobody likes a blog with spelling airs and grammaticacal missed aches.

Last Thoughts

Bloggging is tons of fun, and I hope that you enjoy it, but please keep in mind that there's nothing more important than making sure that you are **always** respectful of your peers. We're in this together, and it should be a good time for everybody involved. If you can't be kind, I can't give you credit.

Questions? Check out **my blog** at mrisakson.wordpress.com.

How to comment.

(a few ideas to help you get started)

1. Ask a question.
2. Provide additional information.
3. Suggest differing opinions, respectfully.
4. Give a compliment.
5. Criticize kindly.
6. Keep it short.