

Blogging the News Schedule and Rules

This is our schedule for weekly blogging for the rest of term. (I will fill in your names after the first week of class. Don't worry. The table below will not stay blank.)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Amm	Jack	Nick	Phoenix	Title
Fahsai	Nee	Noon	Pim	Yun
Fluke				

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Please try to post before midnight on your regular day.

Although I suggest using the *BBC News* for the first week or two, you are welcome to blog any article from any of the publications on my list of suggestions.

If you like, you are also welcome to blog something you listened to on one of my listed sources.

If you know you will be busy and unable to post on your day, you can post the day before.

Rules and guidelines

Your blog post responding to something in the news should have four sections, which we have reviewed in class: a summary, your response, a question for your readers, and an APA style reference citation.

The new post template presents you with the four sections ready to go.

Also see my notes in ["How we blog + format"](#) on the menu at the top of the blog.

1. Section 1 = summary - has strict rules

- The maximums are **four** sentences and **130** words.
Do not write five or more sentences. Do not write 131 or more words.
- The first sentence in your summary paragraph should tell us your chosen source.
 - Tell us the title of the article or other piece of work. Put this in “quotation marks.” Make it **bold**, and make it a link to your chosen source.
 - If known, tell us the name of the author.
 - You should also include the year of publication, usually in (parentheses). See my recent blog posts for examples. The year should be 2018 since we want blogs on recent sources.
- You need to use signal language to make clear that the ideas are not yours but those of your source.
- You may copy and paste one or two short “quotations” from your source if you like. These *must* be in “quotation marks”.
- This is academic writing, and will take some preparation to do well.

2. Section 2 = response - has very flexible guidelines

- This is not academic writing. If you like, you can even write sentences without verbs, although we do want to follow a more formal style of language than, for example, you might use on Facebook. The goal is fluency, to turn your ideas quickly and smoothly into English sentences that communicate your ideas to your readers. It's a more relaxed place for you to try things out in your writing. Play around.
- Any response you have to your chosen source in the news is OK to write. Agreement, disagreement, surprise, joy, horror, shock, a memory, a hope, or any other response are all perfectly good things to write here.
Of course, if your response includes an argument for an opinion, that's fine.
- Although this part of your blog post should be at least twice the length of your summary, it will probably also be the fastest to write, since it does not require any planning in advance. Just start writing. If one idea leads to something quite different, start a new paragraph and develop the new idea.
- But we do want to write a conclusion that tells readers we are finished, at least for now.

3. Section 3 = a question for your readers to respond to

- Ask only one question.
- It is OK to write more than one sentence if you like, but only ask your readers for one response.
- You can ask any question you like. A Yes/No question or an information (Wh-) question.

4. Section 4 = References section - has strict rules

- A reference citation is required for the source that you cite in your summary. There are strict rules for writing these. We looked at these in class, and have done a practice exercise on them.
- There are several styles that are in common use. We are using APA style, which is one of the most common. I suggest you copy my examples, but if you have a question, first check out the excellent [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\) at Purdue University](#).¹

Commenting

And since we are interested in what our classmates are reading and thinking, we also want to respond briefly to the posts. Please try to write at least two comments daily, where *daily* means “five or more days a week.” We do want to read and write regularly, but I think it’s OK to take a day or two off each week.

Keeping up with new posts

So that you know when a classmate has published a new post, you might find it useful to Follow the EAP class blog by email. If you like, you can sign up with more than one email address. You will get an email advice each time a new post is published. Use the form on the right hand side of the blog.

You can cancel this later.


Follow the EAP class blog by email

Keeping up with posts that interest you

You might already have noticed the “**Notify me**” check box to the right of the publish button for comments and replies.

Follow-up comments will be sent to peter.aua@gmail.com

Before you publish your comment, it's a good idea to check the "Notify me" box. You will then get an email advice for later contributions to the discussion, to which you might like to reply.

 **Comment as:** Peter F AUA (C ▼)

Notify me

¹ The link is to the OWL page on writing APA reference citations for electronic sources, which is what we are most likely to use, but you might like to explore related pages.

It's a good idea to check that box when you comment. You will then get a notification email when someone else comments on the same post so that you can follow the discussion and perhaps reply to future comments.

Grading blog writing

Although the summary and the necessary reference citation are both academic writing, your response to what you read, and the related question to which you invite your readers, who are your classmates, to respond, are more relaxed. Important purposes here are to try out new language and to practice writing for fluency. I grade accordingly.

Each of the four parts of your blog posts gets up to 25 out of 100 points.

- for the summary, it is how well you state the important ideas in your words, within the 130 word limit. If you write 131 words, your grade will drop.
If you simply copy and paste from your source, your grade will drop a lot.
If you copy and paste and don't tell readers you did that, the overall grade for the post will drop to around 0.
- the response is graded for the range of ideas you clearly communicate in response to the reading. **It is not an academic essay.**
- the question is straightforward.
- and the reference citation is easy if you follow the rules.

With a little effort, you can easily get 100/100 for your weekly blog posts.

Similarly, provided you write at least one paragraph, which can be short, that expresses a thoughtful response to your classmate's blog post or earlier comment, you will get the full marks for it as a comment. Again, I'm happy to give you 100/100 for your response writing.