

LIB 1201 - Research & Documentation for the Information Age

Prof. Maura Smale - <http://lib1201fall2010.wordpress.com> - Fall 2010

Guidelines for Course Blogging

In this course you are required to write a minimum of 20 posts of at least 100 words each for our class blog (though of course you're encouraged to write more!). Our blog will allow us to continue discussions outside of class, and I will participate along with you. You can also use your blog posts to explore ideas that you may wish to develop more fully in your research paper or documentation project.

You will write several types of blog posts during this course:

1. Reading response (posts from 8/31-9/30; see syllabus for details):

Write a blog post discussing one of the readings assigned for the class. Identify a topic or theme from the reading, briefly summarize it, and analyze it in relation to other readings and themes in the course. Does this reading raise any questions in your mind?

2. Research journal (posts from 10/5-11/11; see syllabus for details):

Write a blog post discussing and documenting your process and progress on the research paper for this course. You may write about any aspect of this process, for example: deciding on a research topic, finding sources, writing the proposal/annotated bibliography/paper, etc. What have you found difficult or frustrating about this process? What successful strategies have you used?

3. Blog comment (throughout the semester; see syllabus for details):

Select a blog post by one of your classmates and write a response to her/his post. What other perspectives on this topic can you offer? How does the blog post connect to the course readings and themes?

If you include or discuss text, images, or multimedia in your blog posts that are not from the assigned readings, please **cite your source**. Source title, author, date, and URL (if it's a website) is sufficient for these posts. We will discuss citation styles in more detail as the course progresses.

Also, please give each of your blog posts one or more **tags**. We'll talk more about tags in class, but for now you can think of them as keywords. Try to pick a few words that describe the topic of your post.

Blog posts need not be written in the formal academic style you will use for your research paper, but please use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation when you blog.

How to Post on the Course Blog:

1. Go to <http://lib1201fall2010.wordpress.com>. On the right navigation bar under "Meta" click "Login." Enter your username and password.
2. Now you're on the WordPress Dashboard. To post your blog entry, click "Add New" under the "Posts" menu on the left navigation bar.
3. On the Add New Post page, enter a title for your post and then paste or type your blog post into the large field in the middle of the screen.
4. There are two ways to format posts: Visual or HTML. If you know HTML feel free to use it. Otherwise you may want to select Visual and use the buttons along the top of the field to add bold, italics, etc.

5. Give your post one or more tags by entering them into the field under “Post Tags” on the right side of the Add New Post page.
6. If you’d like to take a look at your post before publishing it live on the course blog, click the “Preview” button on the upper right side of the Add New Post page.
7. When you’re ready to publish your post to the blog for all to see, click the blue “Publish” button on the right side of the Add New Post page.
8. To view the blog after publishing your post, click the blog’s name at the top of the Add New Post page.

To post a comment on the blog, click the “Leave a Comment” link on any blog post.

For both blog posts and comments, I strongly suggest that you write in a word processor or text editor and paste the finished text into the Add New Post page or comment box.

Please let me know if you have any questions or run into any problems: mstable@citytech.cuny.edu

Grading:

Blog posts are worth 20% of your total course grade. I will email your blog grades to you at the beginning of each week for posts published the prior week.

Each blog post will be graded as follows:¹

Points	Rating	Characteristics of the Blog Post
2	Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The blog post is focused and relevant to the topic. • Post provides examples and explanations or analysis, and reflects in-depth engagement with the topic. • Sources are cited (if not from course readings). • Post is at least 100 words and has been given at least one tag. • Post is submitted by the beginning of class (on time).
1	Competent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The post is mostly description or summary, without consideration of alternative perspectives, and few connections are made between ideas. • Post reflects passing engagement with the topic. • Sources (if not from course readings) are not cited. • Post is at least 100 words, but has not been given any tags. • Post is 1-2 days late.
0	Insufficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The blog post consists of one or two disconnected sentences, or no post was written for the assignment. • Post is less than 100 words and has not been given any tags. • Post is more than two days late.

¹ Sample, M. (2009). *Pedagogy and the Class Blog*. Retrieved January 27, 2010, from SAMPLE REALITY Web site: <http://www.samplereality.com/2009/08/14/pedagogy-and-the-class-blog/>; Schmitt, K.M., Behler, A., and E. Rimland. (2009). Blogging: Create an Online Community. In *Library Instruction Cookbook*, pp. 166-167. Chicago: ACRL.