

COSC 1010H Course Journal Part I

During the duration of this course you will complete **four** journal entries, two in each Course Journal Part I (Due at the beginning of March) and Course Journal Part II (Due at the end of March). The purpose of all four journal topics is to encourage you to experience popular methods of online information sharing that you might not be familiar with. Please make sure to take adequate time to experience each topic before writing about your experiences with it.

For Course Journal Part I, you are required to complete both topics below. Each should be submitted as a **separate** Journal Entry post (using the Create Journal button) on Blackboard **in the Course Journal Part I journal area**.

Each journal entry should be between 500-1000 words.

Submission: Although you are welcome to work on your journals offline in a program like Microsoft Word, journals **MUST** be submitted by putting the journal contents into the journal entry's Message text area.

Journals attached as Word/pdf documents **will be given 0**.

Pasting from a text editor into the entry box will strip formatting like paragraphs, so please read it over online before submitting, and reintroduce any missing formatting (500 words all in one paragraph is very difficult to read!)

References: These submissions are meant to be reflective journal entries where you express your opinion and talk about your experiences. It is possible to complete the journals without requiring any references.

However, facts gained from an outside source **MUST** be referenced. Failure to do so is considered **academic dishonesty, and will result in a 0** on the journal, and may also lead to other significant academic penalties.

The format of your references, if necessary, is entirely up to you. Something as simple as a web link in brackets after the content would be sufficient.

Journal Topic #1 – Blogging.

- If you don't already have a good idea, do a little web searching to learn about what blogging is. (Although it isn't always the best place to be sure to get trustworthy information...Wikipedia has a very good explanation in this case)
- Start off by visiting the following blogs, look around and read some entries:
 - <http://www.engadget.com>
 - <https://david Suzuki.org/category/science-matters/>
 - <http://perez Hilton.com/>
- Do some surfing and find at least 3 blogs with subjects that are interesting to you. If you already have a few blogs that you visit regularly, you are welcome to use them. Take some time to look over their content. Here are a few suggestions for places to start looking:
 - <http://www.blogsearchengine.org>
 - <http://alltop.com>
 - <http://www.blogcatalog.com>
- In your journal, reflect on what you've learned about blogging. Evaluate the blogs we provided. Identify the three blogs of your own you visited, and tell us what you thought of them. Discuss the following, using the blogs you visited as examples:
 - What do you know about the source of information in these blogs? (Both the three we provided, and the three of your choice?)
 - How reliable is the information you read, what made it trustworthy/untrustworthy?
 - What makes a good blog?
 - What about a bad one?
 - What place does blogging hold in business today?
 - How does blogging figure into today's availability of information, and what are its advantages/disadvantages over traditional formats such as newspaper and magazine

Journal Topic #2 - Twitter

- If you are not already using it, do some Internet research to develop an understanding of what Twitter is, in what ways its useful, and how it's different from blogging.
- Find an example of a situation where Twitter has been used to propagate mis-information on a wide scale (eg: the death of someone not actually dead). If you search for this be sure to reference your source!
- Create a twitter account (www.twitter.com) and find some people to follow (your favorite celebrities are a good place to start). Try to follow different types of people (friends, politicians, actors, musicians, athletes). If all else fails, this might give you some ideas:
 - <http://time.com/collection/twitter-140/>
- **Note: Respecting potential privacy concerns, you are not required to post anything to Twitter, just follow other people.**
- Monitor your account for a couple of days to get a solid idea of how it works
- Create a second journal entry and discuss, with actual examples:
 - What you learned about twitter, and your opinion of it.
 - Twitter's strengths and weaknesses. Even if you dislike it, identify ways it might be useful to others. If you like it, why might other people not?
 - How is it different from blogging? Despite their differences, do they convey the same types of information? Or does each format convey certain things better? When might each format be better to use?
 - What are trends? How do they figure into the usefulness of Twitter?
 - Identify the mis-information scenario you found in your research.
 - Twitter has taken a lot of criticism for the significant amount of online bullying taking place. Why do you think Twitter is particularly susceptible to this? What do you think could be done to improve the situation?