

## Assignment 3: Assessing Your Algorithms!

Over the course of unit 3, you will journal three times a week about encountering algorithms in the wild. There will be three sections of this project:

- [Algorithmic Assessment Journal \(9 entries\)](#)
- [Peer Review Reflection](#)
- [Journal Reflection](#)

### Algorithmic Assessment Journal

You will journal THREE times a week from (March 19-April 4) describing the different algorithms you encountered in your daily lives.

Where do we typically encounter algorithms digitally?

- Video recommendations on streaming sites or YouTube
- Social media feeds (TikTok, Twitter/X, Facebook, Instagram, etc..)
- Search engine results (including Marist library!)
- “Personalized” advertisements, like those that pop up on social media or YouTube

Requirements for journal entry:

- **Nine** journal entries in total
- Include the date of each entry
- Can be written in any way (Word/Google document, note application, journal application, handwritten, etc..)
- Should be approximately 200-300 words per entry.

Here are some things to reflect on in each journal entry:

- What content you saw whether it’s a feed/for you page or recommendations.
- How does your own internet activity (what you like, share, comment, search; who you follow and interact with; demographic information that you may or may not have explicitly shared) impact what you see?
- How do larger content moderation guidelines impact the content you see?
- How does the algorithm assess the content it recommends? How is the content

similar to or different than other content your encounter?

- If you can connect your algorithms to any past readings/theories/class discussions, do so!
- Anything content that is troubling, irregular, or surprising. What makes it so?

*\*\*If there is content you would like to be kept private, that is absolutely fine! Choose what you want to share with me and potentially other students. We encounter algorithms everywhere, so you can talk about other algorithmic encounters.\*\**

## Peer Discussion Reflection

You and your peers will share your algorithm assessment journal entries. You can choose to have your peers read your entries or just explain to them.

## Journal Reflection

Your final reflection will be about 500-700 words and should incorporate at least TWO sources we read for class. To prepare for your reflection, read over your previous journal entries and your peer review reflection.

This does not need to be a “formal” essay, but rather a space for reflection and thinking through some of these questions.

- How did writing these journal entries and paying closer attention to your recommended content impact how you think through your engagement online? This impact could be enhancing what you already knew, shifting what you knew, revealing something new, etc..
- How have our conversations and reading about algorithms and the ethics of AI shifted your perspective?
- How may algorithmic bias have played a role in the content you see or don't see?
- How did your peers' different algorithms compare to yours?
- Do you think you will shift how you engage with content?
- Broadly speaking, how has this unit, your journal entries, our readings in class, and our discussions impacted how you see algorithms and AI?

