Assignment two is all about critical thinking and reflection based on your practice. In order for your practical work to be assessed we require submissions to include an element of reporting. A typical method of reporting, would be to set out a word count usually 4000-6000, an essay which would typically be gathered after the practical element  was completed. For this module, we are looking for students to create a pictorial essay. As the name suggests, it should be heavily rich in imagery and accompanying text. The rationale for the chosen form of assessment is to permit flexibility for all kinds of media related disciplines, whether you based your practice as filmmaker or promo designer or if web coding is where you base your work, a pictorial can be approached exactly the same.

The assessment **should** depict the journey from original idea to final output and remember as the pictorial is picture based you **should** be taking photos or drawing sketches and diagrams or creating storyboards for your final piece. One simple way to achieve this during production is to keep a notebook and camera close by. The notebook can be used to jot down thoughts, to-dos and even rough sketches. The camera can be used to take incremental photos showing the journey of your work as it develops over time. Once you have this material built up over the course of the projects, this will form the foundations of your pictorials.

*“A****pictorial****is a document that****should****depict a journey of your work unpacking the relevant phases of a project into meaningful narratives.“ Lochrie 2018.*

You should consider the process and methods applied to your practical work.  The submission will be used to foster discussions during the Viva element of the module assessment. A pictorial can contain any of the following imagery from ; diagrams, sketches, illustrations, renderings, photographs (annotated), collages or storyboards. An **effective** pictorial will combine a mix of the above, detailing the relevant phases of your work.  A pictorial **is not** just about the imagery, you will need to explain the component with accompanying text. The explanation should be in your own words, but **can be**, and is **encouraged** to be backed up with references to both academic literature and practice based examples. You **should**  use the same **Harvard** referencing style used in the briefs assessment.

**Each** project will require an individual pictorial essay. If you have **overlay** between your briefs and are demonstrating differing skills, then you should **still** submit two briefs but the rationale for the chosen idea can be the same in both briefs. However, you **must** distinguish to differing skills adopted for the project.

The weighting for the pictorials and practicals will be distributed the **same** as chosen in the project briefs.

You should think about all the relevant phases of your project for example these may  include;

* Idea - “Make visible what, without you, might perhaps never have been seen” Robert Bresson.
* Script/Screenplay/Frameworks/Libraries/API - “To make a great film you need three things - the script, the script and the script” Alfred Hitchcock.
* Casting
* Creative Planning - “I have a blueprint for each film, but not for my life” Claire Denis
* Logistics - ”One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well” Virginia Woolf
* Production - “My movie is born first in my head, dies on paper; is resuscitated by the living persons and real objects I use, which are killed on film but, placed in a certain order and projected onto a screen, come to life again like flowers in water” Robert Bresson

As previously noted, the pictorial format will work for all types of media and design related disciplines. You will just need to identify which phases of the workload are relevant to your field.

**Guidance**

It is **essential** you attend the specified talks and workshops where your lecturer will discuss the components of a pictorial, this will guide you through the requirements of  translating your practice into a piece of academic assessment.

**How to structure a pictorial essay**

A pictorial should consist of the following:

* Title (a generalised title for your work).
* Abstract (approx 150 words).
* Introduction (approx 300 words).
* Background (approx 500 words).
* Body of work - subheadings to organise your phases of work.
* Discussion and Conclusion - reflect on your pictorial (process, method …), critically assess your portfolio piece and discuss next steps and further enhancements.
* References - Harvard style referencing.

**Title:**The title **should** be short, attractive and informative, and should accurately convey the contents of the pictorial essay in as few words as possible.

**Abstract**:  The abstract should concisely summarise the contents of the pictorial, and contain sufficient information to be a stand-alone entity.

**Introduction**: The introduction should be brief, and provide background information about the chosen field of work. It should also include the rationale as to why you chose the topic to based your work on.

**Background**: This section should include any background information to the reader about your field, think of this section as your chance to educate the reader about your field of work. As not every reviewer will be from your discipline and it is useful for you to describe the idea and practice backed up with research to accompany your rationale for doing this work.

**Body of work:**This section requires further subheadings detailing the journey you took in order to end up with the final output. As a minimum, but not limited to, this should include headings such as; process, method) but you are encouraged to devise your own headings relevant to your work. For example, if you are developing a web based interface you might consider the following headings; process (design research > design, development, user testing, iteration, user testing)  and methods (research into frameworks and libraries, exploration into languages...). Whereas a documentary filmmaker would have a slightly different route in their process to include research into problem, screenplay, casting, planning, logistics and production.

**Discussion and Conclusion**: The final section of the report, concludes your work. It is there to allow you to reflect on the process and methodology, you should critically assess your work (perhaps even having some formal feedback from potential users/audiences) - an effective way of obtaining feedback is via questionnaires, interviews and observations. For some this can be achieved via a screening of your work (youtube, eventbrite…) or by gathering user feedback through data analytics or questionnaires.

Exercises have been scheduled in order to gain early feedback. These are in the forms of a presentation and writing task. Complete both exercises to gain critical feedback, which will assist in the structuring and shaping of the pictorial.  Feedback will be provided in both oral and written form for both exercises. You should take this feedback and apply it to your pictorial essays.

The pictorial is coupled with a **viva**. The viva aka ‘viva voce' (Latin for ‘by live voice’) or oral examination is a way for you to express and defend the practical and pictorial elements of your work against a panel of experts. You are given the opportunity to **talk** about what you achieved. Your work with have **strengths** and **weaknesses**. It is important to discuss these through the challenges you faced and what solutions you came up with in order to overcome problems. Any weakness can be viewed as an **opportunity** to demonstrate your skills as a **critical** **thinker**. The panel of experts will be acting as examiners, who will be seeking to find and discuss weaknesses and challenges your work presents. The panel will be made up of examiners from all backgrounds and **differing** disciplines, so it's essential to remember the experience around the table when talking about your work. The panel of examiners will collate a set of **questions** based on the pictorials you’ve submitted. The purpose of the viva**is not** to assess your ability of how well you communicate but rather your process in creating your portfolio of work.

**How to prepare for your viva**

Preparing for your viva is a lot like an interview. You are there to demonstrate your work and that you were able to think independently at a high level. You should prepare some questions that the experts may ask you, you should assess your own work prior, attempting to come up with the answers prior to the viva.  During the viva you are permitted to bring in any materials to support your defence. This could be the pictorials submitted or even the final output. If you do decide to bring the final output, if this is a 15 minute feature length film/footage, we would request a trailer of this footage limited to 2 minutes.

There is a session relating to viva preparing schedule for semester two. I would advise attending this session in order to gain further insights into how to prepare for the viva element of your assessment.

**Submission**

Each individual pictorial with accompanying practical work should be submitted  to blackboard in the respective submission areas.

**Assessment/Marking scheme for Semester two, final year portfolio projects**

The assessment scheme for the final year portfolio projects, provides a deeper outline of the learning outcomes and aims of the module for semester two. The assessment for semester two aims to examine students on their attainment (i.e. learning outcomes) with respect to key practical skills and research competencies (i.e. learning objectives), assessed in the following way;

1. **Midpoint progress presentation**; assessing the students progress to date, forward plan and production standards.
2. **Pictorial report per portfolio item** -
3. **Viva to present and defend the entire body of work** - an oral examination based on the students organisation and structure of presentation, delivery and use of visual aids.