

Humanities 12- Blog FAQ

Why are we blogging?

We blog so that we can learn to write clear, succinct opinions that are backed up with evidence. Not only does the internet allow for these to be uploaded instantly, but it allows sourcing (hotlinks, videos, etc) to accompany the blog easily so we know from where you are getting your information. Blogs also are a forum for commenting on the work of others in a way that is quick, easy, and relevant. We do not have to be in the same place, or blog at the same time, to maintain a dialogue with each other.

Where are we blogging?

Your blog will appear in at least two places. Firstly, you must use a word-processing document to create your blog. This will allow you to use word-processing functions (spellcheck, thesaurus) while you write. It will also allow you to maintain a blog portfolio – a document that you will submit to me at the end of the project for a grade.

Secondly, you must have your blog online. You can either have this as a page on your DP, or you can use an outside source (this is particularly good if you would prefer your political opinions to remain anonymous).

What are the expectations for our blogs?

1. You need to have completed at least 15 blogs by Friday, November 20.
2. Blogs might be in class writing, freewrites, research-based, or homework assignments.
3. You are required to express your opinion on a topic.
4. Although blogs are personal reactions to topics, back your claim up with evidence (link to article, video, etc) whenever possible. No need for MLA citations, but you do need to thoughtfully use links and quote other sources.
5. Good blogs are thoughtful, thought-provoking, and well thought-out (that's a lot of thinking!)
6. Good blogs are well-written, and showcase your ability to convey ideas effectively in writing.

How are blogs graded?

Blogs are graded pass/fail, but passing is more than writing something down. First, you need at least 15 individual blogs to receive a passing grade. Then, entire blogging portfolio will receive a passing or failing grade based on:

1. Quality of writing
2. Depth of thought and engagement with topic
3. The “real” weight of your blogging grade will be in your blogging portfolio analysis, a 1-2 page critical analysis of how your blog shows your critical thinking about the US politics and government. Due date TBA.

How do I set up my blog?

1. Either create a blog page on your DP, or create an external blog.
2. Email the url to Lori once it's created- I will be creating a blog page on my DP so you can easily find and comment on each others' blog posts.
3. Create a word document that will be your blog portfolio.
4. Write your blogs in your portfolio (don't forget to date them!), and paste the text into your blog site.