

SILS: Introduction to Journalism

(O'CONNOR)

Essay Rules, Essay Titles, How to Cite (References) + EXAM

1. **Submission deadline:** A hard copy of the essay must be personally submitted to me or the SA in class in Week 11. If you do not finish your essay in time to bring it by hand to class in week 11 of this course, then your essay is too late for submission and you are likely to fail the course
2. Use the Waseda SILS Cover Sheet for the hard copy of your essay.
3. Write your FULL essay title on the Waseda SILS cover sheet and in the header of your essay pages, which must be numbered and stapled.
4. **Length:** Minimum 1,000, maximum about 1,500 of your own words not including quotations.
5. Essays must be written in English, typed in **12 pt. Times New Roman font**, single-spaced. Write your name, student number, the date, essay title and email address in the header space and number and staple all pages.
6. Make sure you keep a copy of your essay on your pc.
7. Follow the citation system below ↓ ♣
10. Please photocopy and staple relevant newspaper articles at the end of your essay.
11. Please cite at least 10 sources for your essay. List your sources at the end of your essay under the heading 'References'.
12. Use internet sources up to a maximum 40% of your references.
13. Your essay will be marked on its originality, presentation, evidence to back your argument, and on its coherence. Your essay is not a test of English ability, but a way to test your ability to think critically about journalism.

ESSAY LIST: Choose one (1) essay from the list below. Address the question(s) in your chosen essay.

To repeat: please bring a hard copy of your essay to class in Week 11 of the course. Late essays are not accepted. Emailed essays are not accepted. Use the WASEDA SILS **Green** Essay/Report cover sheet.

Introduction to Journalism: CHOOSE AND WRITE AN ESSAY ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 14 ESSAY TITLES

1. Who is best qualified to find out what really happens in major historical controversies: journalists, historians, or legal specialists? Discuss, giving examples from week 1 material and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.

2. 'The purpose of journalism is to hold truth to power'. Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
3. The political life of most modern industrial democracies suffers from a 'democratic deficit' in which the news media becomes the *de facto* opposition. Discuss the role of the news media during any national election in the last 5 years. Give examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
4. Choose a major news event. Show how it was broadcast on two or more TV news channels or two or more newspapers. Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
5. Journalists need to present the true facts of a news item, correctly and accurately. Discuss, with examples from the press, broadcast news or documentaries, or all three, and give at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
6. Newspapers like *The Guardian* sell advertising space but remain free to online readers. News Corporation and other media companies have built paywalls around their online media, but their online circulation has fallen heavily. Can newspapers make a profit in today's media environment? Explain the problem and you're your solutions and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
7. In most countries, television is far more controlled than newspapers. Why is this and is it fair? Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
8. Do films about journalism give an accurate picture of the profession? Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
9. Is journalism ever free of 'value judgements'? Answer this question with reference to journalism in any medium. Give examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
10. How can journalists report the tragedy of war abroad or mass shootings at home? How should they report these two kinds of war? Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
11. In June 2007 Mika Brzezinski refused a morning news programme with a story on Paris Hilton. Was she right? Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
12. Is TV news in your country impartial or biased? Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
13. Choose a major international crisis involving your country and compare your country's media treatment with reporting of the same crisis in any foreign news media. Compare the two treatments and decide which is better journalism, providing at least ten sources in your 'References' section.
14. Are poorer countries like Africa, India and the Philippines fully reported in international media? If not, why not? Discuss, giving examples and at least ten sources in your 'References' section.

Essay citation rules – READ CAREFULLY

This course aims to help you learn how to write a formal academic essay. If you follow these basic rules your essay will read more clearly and be more convincing: it will be a better essay.

1. When you quote or give factual information or an opinion that is not your own, you **MUST** say where you got the information. At the end of your essay, under the heading '**References**', list all book or article titles or internet source URLs, give publisher's name, place of publication and publishing date, and page numbers. .
2. If you quote or cite a newspaper article, quote the headline (use double quotes) and give the name of the newspaper and the date of the article, i.e.
3. Reference system: you can cite book or article references briefly (in brackets) in the body of your text and then give the full reference in your references section. Example: in your main essay text you write

According to Pipesucker, 'few journalists questioned this decision' (Pipesucker 2014: 53).

Then in the **References** section at the end of your essay, give more information about Professor Pipesucker and his book, as follows:

References

1. Pipesucker, Karl J. Jr. (2014) *In Retrospect: My Incisive Perspectives on Everything* (London: Snipcock and Tweed, 1,000 pages).
4. Quotation format: quotations longer than two lines should be indented and placed in a separate space.

THE EXAMINATION

1. When: Week 14 of the course.
2. Purpose: to test how your ability to think and write critically about journalism.
3. Time: 45-50 minutes [subject to change]. **Starts soon after the class begins.**
4. Two sections: 1. multiple choice questions, 2. A choice of short essay titles.
Important: These examination essays can be based on topics that have come up in class but are not discussed on the course homepage. This is why I stress the need to take notes in class.
5. **IMPORTANT:** Your grade for Introduction to Journalism is made up of 35% for the essay, 35% for the exam and 30% for everything else including Worksheets, Attendance and Class Participation. What this means is that you could write a great essay and score a full 35% for it, but still not score enough

for a pass if you failed to attend classes, take notes, or take the exam.