

## **J462: Solutions Journalism – Class Journal**

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Due: Thursdays at noon.

“Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just by sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing prepackaged assignments, and spitting out answers. They must **talk** about what they are learning, **write** about it, **relate** it to past experiences and **apply** it to their daily lives. **They must make what they learn part of themselves.**”

- Chickering, A. W., and Gamson, Z. F. (1987). “Seven principles for good practice undergraduate education.” AAHE Bulletin, 39, 3-7

**Purpose:** This ongoing assignment is to (1) encourage your reflection about your learning to increase your current and future learning capacities, (2) to provide feedback to me about your learning and (3) to further tie solutions journalism concepts and journalism theory to the practical skills you are learning in class.

**Skills:** The Class Journal will aid your ability to meet these course objectives: 1) See themselves as contributing to the debate about the role of journalism and the journalist in a democratic society 2) Value how SoJo can create impact and engage audiences and 3) Evaluate how diversity—in sources, story ideas and journalists—makes a difference in news coverage.

This assignment is designed for you to reflect on the reading and topics of the week.

**Knowledge:** Reflecting on your learning is one of the best ways to learn. (See introductory quotation above.) The most successful learners (and all professionals are ultimately learners) think about their learning and progress in an ongoing manner. I’m asking you to develop or improve that habit. I hope you’ll take me up on this opportunity.



### ACEJMC Competencies:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity; Think critically, creatively and independently

**Task:** Read the questions posed each week in the Class Journal for the week (see Discussions on Canvas). Write answers for each of the questions of about three to five sentences. Write your answers directly in the Discussion text box on Canvas.

**Criteria for Success:**

The brevity of your response does not mean that it should be unconsidered, inappropriate or ungrammatical; however, I won't take off points for writing mechanics because the focus of this assignment is on your thought.

In addition to your responses, consider reading what your classmates write and consider commenting occasionally in a respectful manner if you see something that interests you. Please see **rubric** on next page.

The majority of points are just for completing the assignment in the fashion I've indicated because I want you to feel free to write what you truly think and feel. The important part is to think and reflect, not what opinion you express.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Score Translation</b>
Exceptional	Answers all questions in thoughtful manner.	4.0
Experienced	Not all answers display thorough consideration.	3.0
Capable	Answers few questions AND/OR answers are not thoughtfully considered.	2.0
Developing/Emerging	Answers few questions AND answers are not thoughtfully considered.	1.0
Not Yet	Doesn't answer any questions.	0.0