**Weekly Journal Prompts**

Week 1 (1.1): Reflect on your media chart. Are you surprised by the amount of media you consume? Are you surprised by the type or the amount of time you spend on any given media? Do you think you consume more or less than the average teenager? Was there any item of your media chart that was unusual or atypical of your normal daily media usage?

Week 1 (1.4): I Spy Entry: By the end of the week, students should have completed their first “I Spy Media” journal entry, in which they discuss something they read, watched, or heard about in the media that relates to what we’re discussing in class. This is an open-ended journal response.

Week 2 (2.1) In 2-3 well-written paragraphs, address the following questions: What was easy about the curation process? What was hard? Was there anything about the process or the results that was surprising or unexpected? What about this process can you take away and apply to your daily life and your habits of media consumption?

Week 2 (2.3): Devise a 3-step social media accuracy strategy that would be easy for anyone to follow if they want to check the accuracy of a post on Facebook or Twitter. What steps should they take? How can they verify what they are reading? Explain your strategy and why you think others could follow it.

Week 2 (any): I Spy Entry: By the end of the week, students should have completed their first “I Spy Media” journal entry, in which they discuss something they read, watched, or heard about in the media that relates to what we’re discussing in class. This is an open-ended journal response.

Week 3 (3.1): Challenge students to pick another topic on which they have strong beliefs, and to read three contradictory news reports on this topic throughout the week. In their journal, write a 2-3 paragraph reflection responding to these questions:

* How did it make you feel to read things that were directly against your beliefs on the topic?
* Do you feel informed? Do you feel like you’ve expanded your perspective on this?
* Or, do you feel like reading the opposite side has only make your beliefs stronger?

Week 3 (any): I Spy Entry: By the end of the week, students should have completed their first “I Spy Media” journal entry, in which they discuss something they read, watched, or heard about in the media that relates to what we’re discussing in class. This is an open-ended journal response.

Week 4 (4.2): Students should watch the short video “Final Edition,” which documents the closing of the Rocky Mountain News in Denver, Colorado. (www.rockymountainnews.com) Students should write a two-paragraph or more journal entry that reflects on how the felt about the video, whether they think a newspaper closing really is a significant or important event, and how they might be affected in they were readers in the Denver community. Knowing what they know after the group projects, what could they do as citizens to overcome some of the negative effects of the Rocky Mountain News closing?

Week 4 (4.3): Spend 15 minutes reading through different news on the BBC’s website. Then, write a reflection comparing and contrasting the BBC to whatever America news media you tend to use in the United States. What do you think about the quality of BBC news? As a consumer in Great Britain, would you be happy paying a fee to support this product? Why or why not?

Week 5 (5.2): Ask students to spend the last 10 minutes of class thinking about how presenting information in an entertaining way changes their thoughts about that information. They should respond to these questions and explain their ideas(you can write them on the board): Do you think it’s possible to tell news in a funny way and still be accurate and truthful? Do you think it’s good or bad that people sometimes prefer comedy news to real news? Do you think people are more likely to agree with information that presented in a funny way?

Week 5 (any): I Spy Entry: By the end of the week, students should have completed their first “I Spy Media” journal entry, in which they discuss something they read, watched, or heard about in the media that relates to what we’re discussing in class. This is an open-ended journal response.

Week 6: Final journal reflection