**MEDIA JOURNAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

RESEARCH/WRITING HOMEWORK: Start a **News Media Journal** **(Paper #2)** by sitting down to watch, read, or listen to the news four times in whatever format or through whichever source your choose. You may decide on four completely different stories/topics covered in the media or decide on connecting your four different pieces by choosing one source (the New York Times, for example), program (60 Minutes for example), writer, or story/topic to follow over the next two weeks. When you sit down to work on the media journal, you will choose current sources from that day – do not look for sources that are already dated/old even by a day, and do not use databases for this assignment. You may use Google or any other search engine, but be aware that search engines are not media sources because they do not report the news – they are tools to help you find actual media sources. Write at least four entries (two per week); each entry should have at least one paragraph of summary and one paragraph of response. The response section should focus on analytical and critical thoughts about how the media cover what they cover. Finish the project with at least two paragraphs explaining what you learned from observing the media critically in this assignment overall. REMEMBER TO TAKE CAREFUL NOTES SO YOU CAN EVENTUALLY DOCUMENT SOURCES ON A WORKS CITED PAGE! + review of MLA guide in textbook (400-407)

**MEDIA JOURNAL TIPS**

Consider the following tips for your Media Journal:  
  
1. Use official/mainstream sources, international news sources (see the links on the right hand side of my web site), or alternative news sources that have professional writing and verification processes -- avoid citizen journalism stuff, wiki-sites, and blogs. Wire service sites are ok.  
2. When you summarize, be sure to note what kind of piece you're summing (such as an opinion piece, straightforward news, a feature, a column, etc.). If you're watching broadcast news, it's up to you to observe an entire segment or just one piece of the broadcast.  
3. In your response/reaction for each entry of the Journal, focus your thoughts by using and demonstrating course concepts in your analysis. Feel free to center your analysis on criticism -- what works and what doesn't, what's good and what's bad, what's exploitative and what's great journalism -- while using course concepts relevant to media criticism in your analysis.  
4. Develop full essay paragraphs (at least three sentences, with focused topic sentences, etc.).  
  
If you need extra English grammar and mechanics review, I encourage you to visit the tutoring center, and here is a helpful site:  
  
<http://www.towson.edu/ows/index.htm>