

due	Friday, October 21
assessment value	20% of your final mark
submission requirement	<p>An email is to be sent to Adrian Miles (adrian.miles@rmit.edu.au). This email is to provide a link to a single blog entry that provides all appropriate commentary and links to meet the assessment requirements. This link can be to an individual blog post, or to a category, however the category should only contain posts that are specifically relevant to the assessment requirements.</p>
assessment requirement	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Your blog is to be used continuously through the semester.2. You must include 6 entries, 3 from prior to week 6, and 3 from later than week 8, which indicate a problem or question and what you have learned since.3. You must include 4 entries which are annotated comments to an academic essay or article. These entries must include the citation of the essay, article, book or whatever it is that you are annotating. Each of these entries should be a minimum of 500 words. 1 of these annotations may be from the set reading. 2 must be from peer reviewed publications. 2 of these annotations should be from before week 6, two should be from after week 6.
assessment rationale	<p>It should be obvious at this point that regular use of a blog is really the only way in which a blog can be effective for you. If you don't write in your blog regularly then it isn't actually going to help you in your learning. It is a learning diary, if you like, and if you only wrote in your diary a few times, and then at the end of the year, well, you'd pretty quickly figure out what you were writing was not a diary. Hence a requirement for this assessment is that your blogs should be used regularly. A description of what this means is available on my blog, at http://hypertext.rmit.edu.au/vlog/folksonomy/Student-FAQ</p> <p>Providing entries from the first and second halves of the semester gives you the opportunity to indicate to me the outcomes you may have achieved through the semester. The first 3 posts might indicate technical problems, a creative issue, a theoretical question, or some other thing that you're wondering about. The subsequent posts are a way of making plain what progress you have been able to make, and it</p>

is this progress that is important (this progress is one form of learning). In addition what you choose to highlight here is of significance. If you only concentrate on technical problems then this might show that you're not very sure about the theoretical side of the subject, or with theory in general. There isn't a right answer to what these posts should be about, but what they are about is up to you to write and then select, and so how you represent your learning to me is up to you.

The 4 annotated entries relate to the integration of theory and practice that the subject is modeling. We do this in doing, not by separating out theory as something that happens in books and via words, and making as something that happens by handling stuff. Your blogs are made objects. They're designed writing. They are a making as much as they are a thinking out. Now, in relation to the portfolio task, you are going to be making things together, and contextualising these in terms of the theories you're exploring and learning. To help with this, and to 'seed' the ability to find connections between theory and practice (thinking as doing and doing as thinking) this task requires you (forces you) to do research. You will need to find other sources, read them, and annotate them in relation to what you understand about they are about. These annotations should:

- contextualise the work (what is it about, what theoretical approaches does it use?)
- describe the work (what does it actually claim or argue? In other words what is it about?)
- criticise the work (what doesn't it say or leave out that would contradict its argument? What does it offer that is useful?)

This is not very different to using the hat exercise, except now it is being applied to academic work.

Finally, in previous subjects utilising blogs the assessment weight of the blogs has usually been around 30%. I have reduced this to 20% for this subject because, with Integrated Media One under your belt, virtually all of you have realised the usefulness of your blogs. In other words I don't need to 'seed' use of the blogs by making them worth a third of your mark, by using them (because you had to) most of you have worked out that they are valuable. If you haven't worked this out yet, then you probably never will.

This means the subject can also place a bit more emphasis on other assessment activities, largely for the same reasons — these are very important and by weighting them well I am saying “these **are** important” and that you are to treat them as important.

(Adrian Miles 2005)