The Martian: Website Blogging Assignment
125 points

Over the course of this semester, students will be reading Andy Weir’s *The Martian* and contributing to an all-house blog, which is located here: https://usmfyemartian.blogspot.com

Your FYE instructor will add you to the website as an author so that you will be able to make new posts to the site. You may also want to consult this tutorial video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Lemnkg5mVQ

Additionally, a “tips” guide will be supplied to you to give you some advice on how to complete each component, which will include a written post, an audio podcast, and a vlog (video blog). The written post will be individual work, whereas the audio podcast and vlog will be completed in groups.

**Written Post – 30 points – 300 Words**

Your written blog post should roughly be 300 words. For this post, select one of the questions at the following discussion guide for *The Martian* and answer it. You may choose which question to answer, but it is strongly encouraged that you attempt to personalize your written post in order to make it interesting. This means that you should try to internalize the question and content from *The Martian* and apply the themes to your own life. I will leave the content decisions of what you want to add to your discretion, but you will be assessed in the following areas:

https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/the-martian/guide

All students must submit a website url of their post to their instructor to assist your teacher in finding your post. Failure to submit a website url/link to your instructor will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment.

**Grading Rubric for Written Post- 30 Points**

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>A</th>
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<th>F</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of Examples (10 points)</td>
<td>Clearly uses effective examples from the book showing mastery of reading knowledge</td>
<td>Provides some clear evidence to validate concepts in the post</td>
<td>Provides minimal evidence to validate concepts in post</td>
<td>Establishes minimal knowledge of the book position, but supporting evidence is weak or generalized</td>
<td>Does not establish relevant position, does not provide supporting evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of Knowledge</td>
<td>Clearly applies knowledge from the book in a profound and relatable manner</td>
<td>Attempts to internalize the concepts of the book and apply it, but may lack clarity</td>
<td>Makes a minimal attempt to apply knowledge, and emphasizes summary of</td>
<td>May misinterpret or misunderstand a book concept or does not make a clear connection or</td>
<td>Does not attempt to personalize or apply knowledge from the book</td>
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Audio Podcast Post (45 points)

Working in a group of 4-5 students, for this project, you will be asked to create an audio podcast of at least 10-12 minutes in length based on the following question:

_Much effort is made at home on Earth to rescue the astronaut, Mark. Did you find this to be believable? To what extent are larger groups responsible for the individuals within their communities? You should try to internalize this idea into other projects you are completing this semester, such as your service learning project._

A tips guide will be given to you to help you assist in the creation of the podcast. All students should pull their weight in this project, so you should have a clearly visible role, which would either be speaking on the podcast, or in editing the podcast for the blog. It is highly recommended that you use Audacity software. Upon completing your podcast, upload the mp3 to a soundcloud account that you set up, and your audio podcast post should have a brief introduction and a link to the mp3 that is hosted on soundcloud.

_All groups must submit a website url of their post to their instructor to assist your teacher in finding your post. Failure to submit a website url/link to your instructor will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment._

Audio Podcast Grading Rubric – 45 Points

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Use of Examples and Application of Knowledge (15 points)</td>
<td>Clearly uses effective examples from the book and/or other classroom projects showing mastery of the question prompt</td>
<td>Provides some clear evidence to validate concepts in the podcast</td>
<td>Provides minimal evidence to validate concepts in podcast</td>
<td>Establishes minimal knowledge of the book position, but supporting evidence is weak or generalized</td>
<td>Does not establish relevant position, does not provide supporting evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Coordination (15 points)</td>
<td>The group clearly worked well together showing how each individual in the group</td>
<td>Group worked mostly well together but 1-2 students may have done more</td>
<td>The group did not appear to work well at all together, and 1-2 students did all the</td>
<td>The group effort was marred with miscommunication and bad dynamics as group members were quick to</td>
<td>The group did not work together at all to create a finished product.</td>
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contributed to the completion of the project than the rest in completing the assignment.
work while the rest did little to nothing.
blame each other for project’s shortcomings

Technology/Design (15 points)

Podcast is easy to hear and clearly has been edited. It does not have awkward pauses, bad audio (such as static), and shows some degree of professionalism.

The podcast is mostly easy to hear and some attention has been paid to the professional production of an audio podcast. May have a few awkward silences, but some editing has been completed.

Reveals limited sound editing and contains large pauses of silence, volume that is sometimes hard to hear, or other technological issues.

Podcast shows very little attention to design aspects. There is a significant amount of static feedback, or other tech issues that make the podcast heard to hear.

Group does little to no effort at trying to create a podcast that shows any semblance of professionalism. It is either too hard to hear, or is marred with numerous technical problems.

Vlog (Video Blog) – 50 Points

For your last post, you will work in a group of 4-5 students for this project. On this task, you will be asked to create a video blog of about 3 minutes in length based on the following question:

Q. In your audio podcast, you were asked to consider what is the group’s responsibility for the individual. For your last project, you will create a vlog that shows the positive impact that an individual can have for a larger group. Go to Project for Awesome at: http://www.projectforawesome.com and review some of the videos that students at other universities have made. Using those as a model, create your own video that you might consider submitting in a competition such as this. You may want to consider your group’s Service Learning partner, or another social justice issue that is of interest to you. For this assignment, you don’t necessarily need to consider or include examples from The Martian as this assignment is more about applying concepts from the book into how USM themes of justice and respect for others can get you to think about making a positive social impact.

All groups must submit a website url of their post to their instructor to assist your teacher in finding your post. Failure to submit a website url/link to your instructor will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment.

Vlog - Grading Rubric – 50 points

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<td>Creativity and Application of Knowledge (15 points)</td>
<td>Clearly shows creativity and applies knowledge from</td>
<td>Attempts to show some creativity and internalize the</td>
<td>Makes a minimal attempt to apply</td>
<td>May misinterpret or misunderstand a book concept or does not make a</td>
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<td>the book in a profound and relatable manner to a particular justice cause</td>
<td>concepts of the book and apply it, but may lack clarity in connection it is making</td>
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<td>Technology/Design (20 points)</td>
<td>Video is easy to hear and clearly has been edited. It does not have poor audio (such as wind if filming outdoors), and has titles page and all the other markings of an effective video</td>
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<td>The video is mostly easy to hear and offers some interesting graphic choices. Some editing has been completed, but may have small issues with regards to transitions or sound.</td>
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<td>Reveals limited sound editing and contains major technical errors, such as being hard to hear, or moving between horizontal and vertical shots.</td>
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<td>Vlog shows very little attention to details and design aspects. There is a significant amount of static feedback, wind noise, or other issues related to video and audio components.</td>
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