



FINAL PAPER: PERSONAL CAREER INSIGHT ASSIGNMENT

DUE IN ONLINE DROPBOX BY 11:59PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Every student is expected to complete a Personal Career Insight assignment to meet the final course requirements for Hollywood Perspectives. This assignment will account for 35% of your final grade (35 points).

The main goal of this assignment is to help you articulate what you have learned from our guest speakers and think about how these insights can apply to your own career plan. In other words, this assignment is intended to help make the course material *meaningful* to your own situation, which is ultimately the primary goal of *Hollywood Perspectives*.

If you attend all of the lectures and participate earnestly in the online discussions and in-class guest interviews, then you should have little difficulty completing the Personal Career Insight assignment. This is not an exam with “right” and “wrong” answers. You *are*, however, expected to be introspective and discuss the gaps between what you think you know about the Entertainment business and what you have discovered in this course and *make it relevant to your own situation*. If you do this well, you will be far better prepared to deal with the realities of pursuing your career than most students in your field of study.

All Final Papers must meet the following requirements:

1. **Format** – minimum 1800 words, maximum 2500 words, double-spaced, 12-point type.
2. **Content** – address all of the discussion questions outlined below in the body of your paper.
3. **Sources** – make direct reference to the guest speaker(s) who provided you with relevant insights throughout the paper – *cite your sources*.

All Final Papers must address the following questions:

Please consider the variety of professional experiences discussed in this course and address the following questions in your Final Paper:

1. Which of these personal stories most resembled what you imagined a career in Hollywood would be like? Why? Which of these stories surprised you the most? Why?
2. What are some of the commonalities between the guest speakers? What are the characteristics you think have most contributed to their success?
3. What do you think have been the most difficult obstacles faced by the speakers? Cite and discuss at least 2 examples.
4. Which of the speakers in this series do you think are professionally the most successful? Why?

5. Which of the speakers in your opinion has been the most successful at achieving a creative vision? Why?
6. Which of the speakers do you most identify with? Why?
7. Has your perception of Hollywood changed as a result of this series? Why/why not?
8. What course of action might you consider with your own career as a result of what you have learned through this series? Discuss.

You do not need to address these questions in order. You are free to construct your paper in whatever form works best for you, but it's important that you touch on all of the questions above. *As a starting point, I strongly suggest you re-read your response to the discussion assignments from Week 1 of the course to see how your views have grown or changed throughout the course.*

The Final Paper is worth 35% of your final grade and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Course Content** – the degree to which you are able to identify and cite course insights in your material. (15 points)
2. **Personal Relevance** – the degree to which you are able to discuss course insights in relation to your own career aspirations. (15 points)
3. **Technical Writing Skills** – just like in the “real” world, you will be judged on spelling, grammar, usage and the ability to communicate your ideas. (5 points)

While I expect very few of you have thought in-depth about a career plan at this point in your study, consider this assignment a first draft of what I hope will be a rewarding and prosperous career plan for you. Good luck!