

Journalism Assignments

Choose one of the following journalistic writing prompts below, or create your own and discuss it with me for approval. Most articles for newspaper or magazine publications are intended to be read in one sitting, therefore we should be economical and efficient with our writing (I would aim for somewhere between 700 and 1000 words). Your writing needs to connect in some specific way to at least one of the texts we have studied so far (*In the Lake of the Woods*, *The Fog of War*, *The Things They Carried*)

I have provided some suggested resources below that could help you with your writing, in addition to the resources I have compiled under the "Class Files" page of my website. I would strongly discourage you, however, from reading articles that closely resemble these specific assignments; instead you will want to create a wholly personal response.

- a. Film review of *The Fog of War* to be published in a magazine that focuses on Documentary Filmmaking.
- b. Thinkpiece for *The New York Times* that investigates some aspect of our essential question: Blurring the lines: Autobiographical impulses & fictional realities. Consider looking at how filmmakers or authors construct reality.
- c. Review of *In the Lake of the Woods* for a literary magazine.
- d. Opinion and Editorial Piece that investigates what truths we can learn from fiction, or maybe a piece that investigates our obsession/fascination with realism, or possibly whether or not war can ever be presented truthfully in literature.

Suggested Resources:

- a. My website has several [Book and Film reviews](#). I am quite proud of [my review of the young adult novel *King Dork*](#) (a link to the review was sent to the author, and he posted a link on his website).
- b. Peruse magazines and newspapers. I am impartial to *The New York Times*, *The Onion AV Club*, *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone*.
- c. Read reviews by your favorite film and novel critics. (A.O. Scott writes consistently excellent reviews for *The New York Times*). [Rottentomatoes](#) or [Metacritic](#) compile reviews from everywhere.