

## FINAL PROJECT

This final project will focus on the second part of the course, dedicated to journalism. I will offer you different topics connected to society, culture, economy etc. and will ask you to pick one of them. I selected these topics so that you can do some background research on each of them and have a clear idea of the ins and outs of each topic. Once you have selected the topic you are most interested in, you will have to do some background research and, once you have gathered enough information, you will have to write an article that will state your own take on the matter. To do so, you will have to use the documents I gave to you in class regarding the organization of a journal article.

Below is a step-by-step explanation of what you need to do to complete this project:

### **Step 1: Choose your topic.**

#### **Topic 1: “Quel avenir pour le français à Montréal?”**

<http://www.lactualite.com/societe/quel-avenir-pour-le-francais-montreal>

(On this webpage, you will have a very complete documentation on the issue, with various articles and interviews. You do not have to read and use each one of them, but you need to read and analyze different articles, so that you can have a nuanced view on the question.)

#### **Topic 2: “Planète rebelle”**

<http://www.lactualite.com/monde/planete-rebelle>

(This topic deal with the protest movements that emerged worldwide in the aftermath of the economic crisis. Your task, if you choose this topic, is to be able to summarize what you read about the different protest movement in the different countries and give a clear idea of what the main issues are, and if they are the same everywhere. You will also have to give your own opinion about these movements.)

#### **Topic 3: La campagne présidentielle américaine de 2012**

<http://www.courrierinternational.com/dossier/2011/12/16/objectif-2012>

(For this topic, you will see that there is a lot of documentation. So that you don't get lost or overwhelmed, you can focus on one specific aspect of the presidential campaign. For example, you can choose to analyze Obama's first mandate, or how the 2012 campaign is being orchestrated between the different candidates. Here again, the idea is that you gather enough information to have a clear and nuanced idea on the topic, so that you can express your own opinion in your article.)

#### **Topic 4: La champagne présidentielle française de 2012**

<http://www.courrierinternational.com/evenement/presidentielle>

(This topic is very similar to the previous one, but focuses on the French presidential campaign. Here again, you will have a lot of information, so I recommend that you focus on one aspect of the campaign. You can also choose to offer your own take on each of the 5 most prominent candidates – Nicolas Sarkozy, Francois Hollande, Marine Le Pen, Jean-Luc Melenchon and Francois Bayrou – according to the different articles you will have read.)

#### **Step 2: Select only the useful information**

As you will see, for all 4 topics, you have a lot of information. Once again, the idea is not that you read all the articles before you start writing your own. What I want you to do is select some articles (between 4 and 5) that seem most relevant to you and that give a clear and nuanced idea of the issues connected to the topic. So that you don't spend too much deciding which articles to use, read the "accroche" or the "chapeau" usually accompanying each article. This way, you will know quickly whether this article can be useful or not. You will have to refer to the articles you selected when you write your own, so that I can clearly see that you have done the necessary background research.

#### **Step 3: Make a plan and organize your ideas**

Once you gathered useful information, you need to organize your ideas so that you know what statement you want to make in your article and what parts/excerpt of the articles you will use to back up your ideas. You should come up with 3 or 4 main ideas around which to articulate your argumentation and stay focused on these ideas. Also, remember that writing a journal article is different than writing a dissertation, which is why I am asking you to use the document called "Comment écrire un texte journalistique en français" that we talked about in class in order to know how to divide your article. Roughly speaking, your article your be divided as follows:

<b>Part</b>	<b>Goal(s)</b>
<b>Introduction</b> ("l'attaque")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Give a clear idea of the topic you're going to talk about.</li><li>→ Give a clear idea of the main issue(s) connected to this topic.</li><li>→ Catch the reader's interest and make them want to read the rest of the article.</li></ul>
<b>Development</b> (this is where you will have to use "la relance" to give your article a specific tone.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Give all the main information you're using to make your point.</li><li>→ Use the appropriate words/expressions to keep the reader interested.</li><li>→ Organize your information in a meaningful and interesting way.</li></ul>

→ Use examples/excerpts from the articles you read in a meaningful way.

→ Make sure that the layout is attractive (paragraphs, intends, etc.)

**Conclusion** (“la chute”)

→ Summarize the main ideas you developed in your argumentation.

→ Offer a personal thought on the topic.

#### **Step 4: Use the appropriate vocabulary**

As we have seen in class, the right choice of words is essential when you write a journal article; in a few words, the reader should be able to understand the writer’s opinion(s) and sense the general orientation of the article. What I want you to do when you write your article is to pay a particular attention to the words/expressions you use to connect your ideas, contrast facts, clarify some points etc. here’s a list of some basic words/expressions that will be useful to you when you write your article.

##### **Donner un avis personnel**

A mon avis

*In my opinion*

Ce que je trouve important/intéressant, c’est qu’il/elle (+subj.)

*What I find interesting/important is that he/she...*

Il me semble que (+ind.)

*It seems to me that...*

Je partage l’opinion de...

*I share X’s opinion...*

Je penche plutôt du côté de...

*I am leaning towards X’s opinion...*

Je suis convaincu(e)/persuadé(e)/certain(e) que (+ind.)

*I am convinced/certain that...*

Pour ma part

*As for me*

Selon moi

*According to me*

##### **Exprimer un jugement absolu**

Il est hors de question que...

*It is out of the question that...*

Il est exclu que...

*It is out of the question/to rule something out*

Je doute (fort) que (+subj.)

*I (highly) doubt that...*

**Se rapporter (to refer to) à quelque chose/quelqu'un**

A ce propos/ à ce sujet/ à cet égard	<i>In this connection</i>
Concernant/en ce qui concerne...	<i>To what concerns...</i>
Quant à ...	<i>As for...</i>

**Enumérer**

Premièrement, deuxièmement, troisièmement, etc.	<i>Firstly, secondly, thirdly, etc.</i>
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**OU**

En premier/deuxième/troisième lieu...	
Finalemment/en fin de compte	<i>Finally</i>
Pour conclure/terminer/finir	<i>As a conclusion</i>
Tout d'abord	<i>Firstly</i>
Ensuite	<i>Then</i>
Par la suite	<i>Afterwards</i>

**Donner un exemple/illustrer**

Prenons l'exemple de...	<i>Let's take the example if...</i>
Pour illustrer...	<i>To illustrate...</i>
En voici un exemple...	<i>Here's an example...</i>
Autrement dit/en d'autres termes	<i>In other words</i>
A l'inverse/au contraire/contrairement à	<i>Contrary to</i>
D'une part...d'autre part	<i>On the one hand...on the other hand</i>
En dépit de	<i>Despite/in spite of</i>
En revanche/cependant/néanmoins/pourtant	<i>However</i>
De plus/en outre	<i>Moreover</i>
A la différence de	<i>Unlike</i>
En gros/en somme	<i>Roughly speaking</i>
Par conséquent	<i>Consequently</i>

## Step 5: Use the right format for your article

When you're ready to write your article, I am asking you to follow these rules:

- Your article must be between 1 ½ to 2 pages long.
- Your article must be double-spaced.
- The organization of your article needs to appear immediately (cf. intro, development and conclusion).
- The articles you read and used for your article need to be clearly and purposefully used in your article.
- You need to use some of the vocabulary provided in this document.
- You need to do a grammar check before you hand in your article.

**This assignment is due on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. @ 4.00 pm.**

- You can either stop by my office to give me the assignment or send it to me by email.
- The grade for this assignment will be lowered by 10% each day if you fail to hand this assignment on time.
- I will not accept any late assignment after May 10<sup>th</sup>.