# cp349 – Journal Assignment Guidelines

In hopes of helping as many students succeed as possible, I've prepared this basic outline to help you understand what would be considered a successful journal entry.

For the journal assignments, you will need to write a one-page entry that applies the material I'll present in class **to a work that is not shown in class**. This will give you practice using the information to understand the media you watch an interact with on an everyday basis. The external material can be films or television shows, but they can also be books, photos, plays, screenplays, websites, etc.  Any type of media you're comfortable is okay, as long as you follow certain guidelines:

1. **Explain the work that you are writing about.** Use enough detail so that somebody who hasn't seen the work will have a good idea what the work is about. (e.g. *Cowboys and Aliens* complicates the idea of a traditional western film, by introducing a non-human villain. These villains are aliens who want to steal humans' gold and make them slaves.)

2.  **Give a few specific examples from the show,** such as a scene or group of scenes, and **explain how something from class can be applied to understanding it**. Use the powerpoints (e.g. "The dog in *Cowboys and Aliens* shows that Daniel Craig's character is ultimately a good person, because it implies that he is trustworthy and loving despite his hard exterior. **This is an example of pathos** because we can see that he is emotionally complicated and conflicted like any human should be")

3.  **Explain how this application changes the ideas or opinions you had about the work before you saw it, or saw it for the first time**. If it didn't change your opinion, explain why. (e.g. "The use of pathos in *Cowboys and Aliens* made me understand Daniel Craig's character more because I first thought that his character development seemed forced and unrealistic. By seeing the dog as a way to understand his humanity, I realized that is ability to change was there the whole time.")