

Some summary feedback on the 1st seminar diaries

- Lots of very nice diary entries
- Length of the entries was generally ok, although some were clearly too long
 - These were not penalized, if they did not focus on summarizing (see below). If they did do a lot of summarizing, the length was an additional minus to consider
- Some entries focus too much on summarizing - i.e. telling the reader what the seminar covered, what the speaker said etc – instead of reflecting
 - We are interested in thoughts and thought processes the seminar brought to your mind, following from what was said and presented
 - While highlighting what you found particularly interesting takes the very first step in this direction, go further and explore and explain why the specific item was interesting to you.
 - Guiding questions are meant to help you organize your thoughts, they should not be taken as questions that need to be answered. And if you do answer them, focus on the why
 - Do not “hand wave”, i.e. make broad statements about importance for future generations etc. This is about reflecting what you thought, not about saying the right things
 - May be better to focus on few thoughts and go deep, rather than link to many different topics from the talk – latter more easily leads to summarizing (or to just adding “I found it interesting that [summary]”)
- Marking will get tougher during the Autumn – getting a 5 from this first entry does not mean none of the above applies to your text

Feedback on 2nd diaries

- Fairly little to add to the feedback from last week – many excellent diaries and if problems exist it's due to summarizing
- Marking is still somewhat lenient – if there was any doubt about whether to give a lower grade, I give the higher one. This will not be the case from now on
- Some still summarise a lot, with the text being e.g. 80% summary 20% own thoughts. Try to move this balance more in the direction of own thoughts – this is easy to check before submission (are these my thoughts or those of the speaker?). For the coming diaries, an 80/20 balance can't ever lead to a 5, and even for a 3 the 20% needs to be pretty good
- If it helps, think of the diary as your response to a fellow student asking after the seminar “well, what did you think, anything interesting?” [and imagine that she/he will then also ask “why” follow up questions]

Feedback on 3rd EF diaries

- I will not as such penalize over language/grammar, but if I can't understand the point you're trying to make, this will show also in the grade
- Do read the plagiarism rules (a link is in the "Penalties for [...]" document on MyCourse). The concept may be wider than you think
- Make sure your text is not so general that it's difficult to connect it to the specific event.
 - Similarly, do not pick a single element from the lecture/slides and then solely focus on additional research on it (i.e. on things not discussed during the lecture, nor on your thoughts during the lecture). Fine to add on top of your reflections outcomes of your further investigations after the seminar, but you should not omit the reflections themselves
- I'm now, after two rounds of feedback, penalizing more for summarizing; the main component should be your reflection of the material and the event, not the material itself.

Further advice

- In some cases students interpret the exercise too much like a "traditional" assignment and try to demonstrate how well they capture important elements from the seminar, say the "right" things about them (factually and otherwise) etc. This tends to lead to summarising, i.e. repeating the points made by the speaker and the own thoughts - which may be less formally correct etc - move to the background, become trivial "I agree" additions etc.
- In this exercise the focus is, however, on your chain of thoughts and reflections, documenting what came to your mind during the seminar (on topic, of course, no shopping lists). Whether these thoughts have all the facts, conclusions etc right matters less for this exercise (=generally does not affect the grade), as long as you do stay on the topic (i.e. it should be possible for someone who has seen the seminar to connect your thoughts to it).