

SV9106 DISSEMINATION - ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE CHRONICLE

The exam of this 2 ECTS course is to write a chronicle/op-ed to be published in a newspaper or on a website. The newspapers operate with different lengths.

Here are some examples:

- <https://www.aftenposten.no/meninger/debatt/i/Ooyk/Informasjon-om-debattinnlegg-og-kronikker-til-Aftenposten>
- <http://friwiki.info/avisinnlegg>
- <http://www.lindholm.no/tips/kronikk.html>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2010/mar/04/you-tell-us>

The chronicle should be 5000-7000 characters including spaces, typed with a margin of 2.5 cm, line spacing of 1.5 and a Times New Roman 12-point font. The chronicle can be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

The chronicle should be devoted to a professional or political topic. The topic should be relatively relevant to contemporary ongoing debates in society, within a timeframe from one week to three months.

Assessment criteria

A well-written chronical should have the following characteristics:

- The chronicle is factual in form, and written in a language that is free from unnecessary jargon and accessible to a generally informed audience.
- The style is argumentative and explanatory.
- The chronicle presents conclusions or standpoints, and selected premises for these.
- The chronicle engages current affairs and addresses a larger context.
- The chronicle presents the key points first, and is thus not written as an academic article.

1. The introduction

The first paragraph should contain a striking picture to illustrate the main point, or reference to a current phenomenon, and there should be only one main point in a chronicle. The introduction should be one paragraph long, and three to five short sentences is sufficient.

2. The academic framing

After the introduction follows a longer section where the arguments are elaborated. Explain why the topic is important, and signalize why the reader should listen to the arguments presented by the author. In this section, the reader should be impressed by the author's professional weight. As part of the professional framing, the author should present the research material or the academic discussions upon which the chronicle is built. Figures,

estimates etc., as well as academic terms/concepts can be introduced here. This section is longer than the introduction (approximately 500 - 1000 characters). However, the author should make sure that the language is easy and stick to the chronicle's main point and avoid side points.

3. The discussion

After having presented the scientifically anchored arguments, the author is free to discuss the topic, draw on examples, attack named politicians, tell about dilemmas, suggest actions, and so on.

Some negative aspects of a chronicle should be mentioned:

- The chronicle is not a newspaper article.
- Academic terminology and difficult words should not occur or be held to a minimum.
- There is no room for in-depth methodological discussion, review of academic literature or detailed argumentation.

Assessment process

Internal examiners are appointed by the Faculty of Social Sciences. The examiners start the process by reading the chronicle, and subsequently give his/her comments to the other examiner. Together both examiners agree on a grade based on the written product. Final grade is set, and the candidate receive a written assessment within three weeks after the exam.

The examiners are jointly responsible for the final draft of the written assessment of the examination. The written assessment shall reflect the general principles of which the evaluation has been based upon.

Grading system

Grades are awarded on a pass/fail scale.