

# The Collaborative Video Log Project

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## Purposes and objectives

- **Technology** – To help students learn about and become more comfortable with creating and posting videos on websites like YouTube.
- **Voice** – Everyone has something to say, and after thought and reflection, often students have something important to share with others. This project aims to help students realize that they have a voice that is worth sharing.
- **Community** – To develop a virtual community that is thoughtful, reflective, and critical yet supportive through asynchronous video dialogue.
- **Music** – To provide a forum for students to discuss various aspects of music or maybe even create music for the purpose of sharing with others in their crew.

## What is a Video Log?

A video log, also known as a video blog or vlog, is a series of videos found on a virtual site. One of the most common sites for vlogs is YouTube. Vlogs can have a variety of focuses including comedy, cooking, pop culture, music, or anything else the video creator wants. Here some of the most popular vloggers on YouTube:

- Daily Grace: <https://www.youtube.com/user/graciehinabox>
- Dan Howell: <https://www.youtube.com/user/danisnotonfire>
- Tyler Oakley: <https://www.youtube.com/user/tyleroakley>
- Miranda Sings: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mirandasings08>

## What is a Collaborative Vlog?

A collaborative vlog is a vlog channel that is run by more than one person. Often a conversation emerges as the multiple video creators talk to each other, bring up topics, or ask each other questions. The concept became very popular as [the vlog brothers](#), Hank and John Green, began a conversation through videos on YouTube on January 1, 2007. Their conversation is still continuing to this day. Other popular vlogs include:

- [Five Awesome Guys](#) January 4, 2008 – November 13, 2009
- [Five Awesome Girls](#) November 30, 2007 – October 4, 2012
- [5 Awesome Gays](#) January 30, 2008 – May 19, 2011
- [Five Awesome Baristas](#) December 16, 2009 – September 23, 2013

If you're wondering what a music vlog could look like, you could check out my CVL [Five Awesome Muxians](#) (that's musicians with an X).

## How Does One Vlog?

It can be a lot of fun editing videos and even experimenting with music making. So feel free to edit your video however you would like. The following links can help you learn some good techniques for creating vlogs:

- <http://tinyurl.com/H2vlog1>
- <http://tinyurl.com/H2vlog2>
- <http://tinyurl.com/H2vlog3> (sorry, vlog4 has been made private)
- <http://tinyurl.com/H2vlog5>

### **What about Equipment and Quality of Technology?**

You are being graded on your ability to form thoughts and share them, not the quality of your technology. You can use webcams, mobile phone cameras, or amateur-professional video cameras. It is up to you how far you would like to go in regards to the style of your editing. However, some of the most memorable and moving videos I have watched from students were recorded in a dorm room with a cell phone.

### **What are we expected to talk about?**

The first and last weeks, I will give you a prompt (see below in the instructions). In the other five weeks your crew will each have a turn to ask at least one question. Depending on how many people are in your group, some crew members will ask two questions.

### **What are some of the things we might talk about?**

That is really up to you. The only caveat I have is that every question has to do with music. Here are some examples of categories and prompts from previous classes:

#### Aspirations

- If you could play any instrument other than your own, what would it be?
- What are your musical dreams/goals/aspirations?

#### Challenges

- Do a lipsync.
- Do something musical on the quad.
- Name a genre you don't like, and try to find a song in that genre you do like.
- Take a rap song, and make it into a ballad.

#### Experiences

- What is your earliest musical memory?
- What is most frustrating about music for you?
- What was the first concert you ever attended?

#### Philosophies

- Discuss the pros and cons of singing competitions on TV.
- Do you think there is good and bad music? If so, what determines the difference?
- How do we decide that we like a song/piece of music?

#### Preferences

- What are your top five favorite albums?
- What is your favorite genre of music and why?
- What is your favorite way to make music?

### **What are Fun Ideas I Can Include in My Vlog?**

Your videos can include any appropriate footage from you speaking directly into a camera to using a sock puppet to talk for you. You can include multimedia to show off your musical skills as an example. When it is your turn to post on your given day, you should have watched your group members' videos that were submitted before you. Therefore, you can answer your question as well as respond to the others in your group. Try to stay to the topic at hand, but feel free to diverge a little. You could even do some spying on other CVLs and share some interesting things from their YouTube channel.

It is now your turn.

Below are the instructions and expectations for the MUS250 Spring 2020 CVL.

**Step 1 - Crew Selection (March 9-13):** Read over some of your fellow classmates' responses in the *Introductions* forum (On Blackboard in Week 1 Folder). Feel free to post in the *Form Your Crews* discussion board as well (also in Week 1 Folder). By the end of day on **March 12** you will need to form a group of 5 students that will also serve as your crew throughout the course. Discuss your schedules with each other and assign each person to be responsible for posting a 3-5 minute video on a specified day of the week. One person will be designated the Monday poster, another will be Tuesday, etcetera (as a group decide which day works best for everyone; i.e. S/M/W/F/S or M/T/W/H/F). It is important that you remember rule number one in a collaborative project like this: ***Always post on your day!*** Otherwise you could start a domino effect that makes it very hard for your group to function correctly. Create your schedule and stick to it. If someone misses a day, encourage them to make it up quickly. By **March 13**, decide on a crew name, decide on 3 goals and 10 potential topics and fill out the *CVL Prep Sheet* assignment in Week 1 Folder. This is one time where you can feel free to use the ideas of anyone in the class or any friends you may have that have done this before. You will also have to create a YouTube channel with your crew's name in it. Your YouTube channel must be public or unlisted (not private or I cannot grade it).

**Step 2 – Starting the Conversation (March 23-27):** Each student will post a 3-5 minute video on their respective day of the week. You are encouraged to talk to fellow crew members, but this week, it might be a bit harder for earlier posters. Your prompt is: Share with your crew your voice and your music. This is very open ended. So as long as you create a video that has your voice and your music, you should be golden!

**Step 3 – Talk with each other (March 30-April 27):** You and your crew will start to interact with each other by dialoguing back and forth utilizing crew-made prompts. Prompts can also take the form of challenges. It is the responsibility of one group member each week to ask a question for the others to answer. For example, using the *M/T/W/H/F* schedule, the first week the last crew member will answer my prompt add their own prompt and answer it. This is the week they have double duty. Then, all the crew members will answer the question on their day. The last person to answer the question will have double duty and pose another prompt and answer it. There is a sample schedule below.

It is important that you, as a group, work outside of the YouTube channel to discuss what the question of each week will be (remember, you already made a list of potential topics, but when you actually ask the questions, you do not have to follow your original list). Students may decide on their questions via email, face-to-face, or any other means they feel necessary. That way you can interact with the others in their group.

**Step 4 – Reflect on the project (April 27-May1):** There are three parts to this step.

- 1) Create a final vlog during the last week using the prompt: What did you learn in this course?
- 2) Complete the CVL reflection assignments by May 1
- 3) Everyone should turn in a Group Checklist (this file will probably be the same file for everyone in your group. Just copy it and each person turn in the same file on Blackboard. The templates for 2 and 3 will be available on Blackboard

A Sample Schedule for five group members is below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Question 1 (Dr. Cayari's prompt)				
Question 2 (Monday's prompt)				
Question 3 (Friday's prompt)				Question 3
Question 4			Question 4 (Thursday's prompt)	
Question 5		Question 5 (Wednesday's prompt)		
Question 6		Question 6 (Tuesday's prompt)		
Question 7 (Dr. Cayari's prompt)				

**Grades:** You will be graded both individually and as a group for this project. Each video you post is graded individually and you will receive 10 points for turning it in on time. You can earn a total of 70 points for your project.

**What happens when someone is not pulling their own weight?**

Just continue on without them. It may be awkward to have no one to respond to. Hopefully that will not be the case, but if that happens, post a video on your day answering the most recent question. If no new question was asked, feel free to use one of your crew's potential questions

that has not been used yet or take a question from another group. They are there as a fall back for you. If you notice someone misses their day, reach out to them. Try to take care of the situation within your crew. Once you hear back, move on and hopefully they will catch up. If anyone ever misses more than one video, please let Dr. Cayari know so he can address the problem.

**I have some questions about the CVL project that were not answered here.**

Please use the provided forum on Blackboard and do not email Dr.Cayari directly (unless it is a confidential question) as others in the class may have a similar question. Dr. Cayari will check this forum at least once a day during the first week and at least once every 48 hours throughout the semester.