**Broaden Your Knowledge - A Level Media**

We want you to continue to stay engaged over the coming weeks and months. This is especially important if you are going to be pursuing **a course relating to media, film/TV production or journalism**. You need to ensure that you have a broad range of subject knowledge (and which, for Year 12s will help you with UCAS applications). In addition, the suggestions below will also support you in your A Level Studies by giving you contemporary examples that can support with your wider understanding of the subject. The following are suggestions, they are not compulsory, but we would hope that they will help to broaden your experience and understanding of your chosen field of interest.

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| Books | 'My Trade – a short History of British Journalism' by Andrew Marr. Andrew Marr is a well known TV journalist. This is a readable and informative account of the news industry. It should tie in well with work you have covered on the A-Level course. Google Books says: A journalistic memoir from one of the most recognisable TV news correspondents in the UK How do you decide what is a 'story' and what isn't? What does a newspaper editor actually do all day? How do reporters get their 'scoops'? How do the TV stations choose their news bulletins? How do you persuade people to say those awful, embarrassing things? Who earns what? How do journalists manage to look in the mirror after the way they sometimes behave? The purpose of this insider's account is to provide an answer to all these questions and more. Andrew Marr's brilliant, and brilliantly funny, book is a guide to those of us who read newspapers, or who listen to and watch news bulletins but want to know more. Andrew Marr tells the story of modern journalism through his own experience. This is an extremely readable and utterly unique modern social history of British journalism..,…  \*\*\*\*\*\*  'Dead Famous' by Ben Elton. A fictional novel, a comic mystery thriller, which plays out against the background of a Reality TV show. 'One house, ten contestants, thirty cameras, forty microphones, one murder ... and no evidence'. Elton writes fast-paced, compelling novels that deal with the darker side of modern society. This one is a good insight into the workings of a TV phenomenon – reality TV and the manufactured nature of celebrity. |

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| Image result for documentaries icon | Network – (1976, Sidney Lummet)  An older film but worth watching for the way it represents the TV industry. In this much-praised satire, veteran news anchorman Howard Beale discovers that he's being put out to pasture, and he's none too happy about it. After threatening to shoot himself on live television, instead he launches into an angry televised rant, which turns out to be a huge ratings boost for the UBS network. This stunt allows ambitious producer Diana Christensen (Faye Dunaway) to develop even more outrageous programming, a concept that she takes to unsettling extremes.  \*\*\*\*\*\*  To Die For (1995, Gus Van Sant)  Suzanne Stone (Nicole Kidman) knows exactly what she wants. She wants to be a television newscaster and she is willing to do anything to get what she wants. What she lacks in intelligence, she makes up for in cold determination and ruthlessness. As she pursues her goal with relentless focus, she is forced to destroy anything and anyone that may stand in her way, regardless of the ultimate cost …..  \*\*\*\*\*\*  The Devil Wears Prada (2006, David Frankel)  A biting comedy satire about the fashion magazine industry. After graduating from university, Andrea lands the dream job that "a million girls would kill for": assistant to Miranda - the chief editor of Runway, the top-selling fashion magazine in the industry. It is a job set to fast-track her career in journalism, if she can survive a year working for Miranda. From here, Andy, with no sense of fashion at all, begins a fish-out-of-water drama as she is thrown into a lifestyle full of the fast-paced, three-inch-minimum-heel-height, diet coke and coffee substance abuse.  \*\*\*\*\*\*  La Haine (1993, Mattieu Kassovitz)  A disturbing and brilliant film about three friends from different ethnic backgrounds who grow up in the deprived housing estates of the Paris suburbs and face daily challenges of police harassment, boredom and violence. The film contains some lengthy sequences where not much happens (which is actually the point), but it has scenes of powerful realism. The film is a favourite on the A-Level French syllabus.  \*\*\*\*\*\*  Don't Look Now (1973, Nicolas Roeg)  Sinister and creepy – a couple who are visiting Venice are haunted by flashbacks and strange paranormal events linked to a tragedy that had struck the family some months before. Nicolas Roeg is known for his skills as an editor. The Venice location of most of the film's narrative adds a real visual intensity and makes the climax all the more gripping.  \*\*\*\*\*\*  Classic films: Psycho (1960 Hitchcock), A Clockwork Orange (1972, Kubrick)  Everyone interested in film should watch anything by Alfred Hitchcock, the master of suspense and Stanley Kubrick, a visionary and obsessive film-maker.  'Psycho' is worth watching for the iconic shower scene and … of course…. the famous ending. It is a film that has influenced so many later works by many directors.  'Clockwork Orange' was highly controversial and banned for many years. A masterpiece of design and style, it presents a disturbing representation of a dystopian world. The first part of the film is about a gang who carry out random acts of violence. The second part is about the Government's attempts to 'cure' the main character of his violent urges. As with much of Kubrick's work, the film explores questions about individuality versus pressures to conform imposed by institutions and authority figures. |

The home page of **www.mediaattic.co** also contains some useful links to Youtube film technique masterclasses.

**www.screengoblin.com** contains some of the best and most entertaining film reviews you'll find anywhere.

You can also listen to some of the 'screengoblin' team doing a podcast about ….. wait for it …. The Eurovision Song Contest. Radio journalism at its best. Search Spotify for 'Eurovision in Isolation'.