***Media Studies 120***

***Journal Entry #7***

***Artistic license*** is a term that describes a generally accepted freedom that artists have to distort facts, ignore rules and conventions, and even change the wording of borrowed text in order to improve their own work of art.  Using artistic license, for example, a portrait artist may replace a missing tooth or straighten a crooked nose in his or her painting. A novelist may ignore a law of physics when writing an adventure story. A poet may ignore all kinds of grammar rules to improve the metre and flow of a poem.

We must use a mind game called ***suspension of disbelief***to accept the skilful use of artistic license. In this way, we can accept that Spiderman can hide 50 km of webbing up his skin-tight sleeve. Otherwise, we'd have a hard time enjoying the movie.

Artistic license does not work for scientists, security officers, doctors, and others who are not creating art. You definitely do not want your airline pilot to ignore facts about the plane or navigation rules so that she can deliver a more enjoyable flight!

Now read the following statement about the use of artistic license in the reality TV genre. Think about your reaction to its statement about art, reality TV, and artistic license. How does this make you feel about the genre and even about your favorite reality TV shows?

*Reality TV is an art form; therefore, the directors, camera people, editors, and cast members are free to use artistic license to create a more enjoyable TV show. In fact, the first example of artistic license in reality TV is the use of the word "reality" in its name! Artistic license is the only reason why we can actually enjoy watching reality on TV.*