

NotebookLM Assignment (Final Project)

Due: December 15, 2025 by 5:00 pm
Points: 100
Submission: Text entry box or file upload (File type: .zip)
Available: Until December 15, 2025 at 5:30 pm

This assignment was locked December 15, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Overview

[NotebookLM](#) is a personalized AI research assistant from Google that helps users understand and synthesize information. In this assignment you will use NotebookLM to generate both an **audio overview** and a **video overview** (collectively, “the assets”) on a topic of your choosing. Since it is quite difficult to control the length of either asset that the module produces, you are free to use your creativity and judgment in determining the length of each asset.

You may consult with your peers for this assignment, but all the work you submit must be your own.

Your Topic

To start the assignment, you will select a topic. The topic you choose should be related to venture capital investing. As you consider your topic, ask yourself whether it could fairly be included in the syllabus for this course, either as a subtopic of one of the existing units or as a standalone topic.

NotebookLM is especially good at distilling information from myriad sources into explainer content. As you refine your topic, consider who might be in the audience for your assets (besides the instructor). For example, let’s say your topic is portfolio construction in early-stage venture capital. As you refine your topic, you might consider the following questions:

- How much familiarity does your audience have with the topic?
- Does your audience include GPs, LPs, or company founders? Someone else?
- If your audience consists of professional venture investors, are they emerging or more established managers?
- What do you want your audience to learn?

Your answers to these questions and the way you frame your topic will help you select sources and create guiding prompts (see below).

Sources

NotebookLM generates assets from sources selected by the user. The model will allow you to use almost anything as a source. You can use journal articles, blogs, podcasts, slide decks, etc. to generate the assets. To generate the assets for this assignment, you must select and use **at least 10 sources from the course materials** as well as **at least 5 new sources** that you identify (at least 15 total sources). You may use more than 15 sources, up to a maximum of 50 sources for the free version of NotebookLM.

For the 10 sources selected from among the course materials, any of the following qualify:

- Assigned readings, podcasts, videos, etc.;
- The instructor's slide decks that have been presented in class;
- Student reading responses;
- Any of the files collected in the Artifacts folder on Canvas;
- Your responses to any of the questions from Quiz No. 1 or No. 2; or
- Your notes from class.

If you want to use your investment memo as a source, please do the following:

- Create a redacted version of the memo by removing any business confidential information (company financials, non-public customer names, proprietary technology details, etc.);
- Email the instructor the redacted version of the memo; and
- Use the memo only after receiving approval from the instructor.

Requests for approval to use an investment memo as a source must be emailed no later than **December 8**.

If there is a source you want to use and you're not sure if it's appropriate, please write to the instructor seeking guidance.

Guiding Prompts

NotebookLM can auto-generate audio and video assets from a single click. However, the model allows you to select from several presets that influence the substance and form of the content the model generates. For example, with audio overviews, the user can ask the model to generate an explainer, a debate, etc. With video overviews, the user can select from several aesthetic presets that the final content will follow.

In addition to the presets, the user can enter guiding prompts that further instruct the model on the desired output for audio and video overviews. The user can enter prompts in natural language that touch on any aspect of the creative process, such as the intended audience,

emphasis on sources, and even specific language the user wants the host to use (in the case of audio overviews).

For this assignment, please use guiding prompts to generate each asset. The current version of NotebookLM will accept guiding prompts up to an approximate maximum of 4,000 characters.

Here are 3 levels of guiding prompts to consider:

Basic: Short statements instructing the model on basic matters of substance and style; spelling and grammar is correct.

Good: Makes full use of the allotted character limit; provides specific instruction regarding the style and intent of the asset; incorporates topic and audience attributes; incorporates all the elements of the Basic level.

Exemplary: Gives the model a role to play; creatively makes use of the character limit; incorporates all the elements of the Good and Basic levels.

You may use AI, including NotebookLM, to generate guiding prompts for this assignment.

The Design Brief

Please upload a 3–5 page Design Brief along with your assets. Here is what you should include in your Design Brief:

Discussion of the Topic

- What is the topic?
- Who is the audience and how did it impact how you framed the topic?

Source Selection

- List each source and provide a brief 2–3 sentence summary of each.
- Note which sources are from course materials and which are new.
- Explain your rationale for selecting each source.

Presets and Guiding Prompts

- What presets (if any) did you use?
- What guiding prompts did you use for each asset?

Reflection

Answer each question for each asset unless indicated otherwise.

- How does the overall quality of the asset compare with what you would have created without using AI?
- What did NotebookLM get wrong?
- Is there an insight NotebookLM generated that you may have missed if you weren't using AI?
- What sources did NotebookLM prioritize or underweight? Given this, would you do anything different if you were to re-generate the asset?
- Considering the assignment in its entirety, is there anything that could have made this a more learning-conducive exercise?

Submitting Your Work

To submit your work, please take the following steps:

Option 1 (preferred): Create a .zip file that includes the audio overview, the video overview, and the Design Brief. Upload the .zip file to Canvas. Please name your files as follows: [LastName]_audio; [LastName].video; [LastName] Design Brief.

Option 2: Save each asset and the Design Brief in a shared Google folder with the sharing permissions set to “Anyone with the link can view” for each file. Enter the link as a text submission on Canvas. Please use the naming convention above for your files.

You Can Opt Out

The NotebookLM assignment is an optional assignment for the Final Project. If you'd rather not complete the NotebookLM assignment, please complete the [Alternative Final Project Assignment](#). Please refer to the Syllabus and Canvas for more details.