

BLM 1 – Learning Journal Overview

One way to help your learning is to provide opportunities for you to think about and reflect on what you are learning. The purpose of this journal is to help you respond thoughtfully to learning experiences in and out of the classroom. It also provides evidence of what you are learning.

Writing about what you are learning is not just recording “we learned about _____ today.” You need to share as much as possible about what you learned and how you learned it. You can explain:

- what your understanding was before a reading, video, class or experience
- whether or not your understanding has changed, and if so, how
- what was challenging for you in the learning.

Make as many connections as you can between what you are learning and your own experiences, values, and ideas. You will often be asked questions as prompts to answer in your journal. You are also encouraged to go beyond the prompt questions to share more of your own ideas. To do this you can use the following sentence starters to help you get started:

- I found this /reading/video/class/experience interesting because _____.
- This makes me question/think about _____ because _____.
- Some questions that this raises for me are _____.
- _____ has helped me understand that _____.
- I can now see the link between _____ and _____.

Assessment

The assessment of your log will be based on the quality of entries. A good entry thoughtfully responds to the assigned prompt or question and shows thoughtful reflection on your learning. Each entry will be marked out of 4 marks. You will not be graded on spelling, grammar, etc., but you are expected to show some effort to write well. There is no length requirement for the entries, but the entries should be long enough to adequately develop your ideas.

Criteria for Assessing Learning Journal Entries – Single Point Rubric

Concerns (Areas That Need work)	Criteria Expected Standards	Advanced (Evidence of Exceeding Expectations)
	All entries describe evidence of reflection and learning.	
	All entries make connection to one’s self, to others or to other texts.	
	There is an entry for every prompt provided by the teacher.	