

Technical Writing Learning Journal

(due every other Friday at 11:59 p.m. to Blackboard)

To help you review and reflect on what you are learning in our course, you will keep a private bi-weekly learning journal on Blackboard. (Private means that it is visible only to you and to me.)

This assignment will help you review our course content, chart your progress as a technical writer, and report to me on what we need to address or review. Research in how we learn indicates the frequent reflection and prediction—like those in this assignment—help us understand information more successfully.

Instructions

Follow the model below to address all assigned components and to format your journal effectively. Title the journal entry with the words "Learning Journal" and the appropriate entry number (as noted on the syllabus). Include your entry's content within the journal field itself (not as an uploaded attachment), and number each of the components.

Learning Journal

1. Discuss in 2-3 sentences **the most useful technical writing lesson that you have learned from in-class work** during the previous two weeks. What is the lesson? What date did you learn it? What makes it valuable to you and to your potential future as a technical communicator?
2. Discuss in 2-3 sentences **the most useful technical writing lesson that you have learned from our textbook** in the previous two weeks. Give specific textual evidence from Markel and Selber and provide an accurate in-text citation for that lesson.
3. Indicate **something** from the previous two weeks **that you would like us to review or that you need me to clarify** in order to become a more successful technical writer.
4. Predict in 2-3 sentences **what you expect to learn in the next two weeks**.
5. Describe in 2–3 sentences the **most valuable way you took care of your physical or mental health** in the previous two weeks. (The purpose of this item is to encourage you to be deliberate and purposeful in caring for your health during a challenging semester.)

Evaluation

I will evaluate each journal entry based on how thoroughly and accurately it follows the instructions above. **Only journals submitted on time and in the journal field itself (not as attached or uploaded files) will earn credit.** If you have questions about how to complete your journal entries successfully, first review the rubric and then ask in class or post to Ask Dr. Jones.

To provide an extra incentive to complete all seven journal entries, I will add five points to the final journal score if you submit all entries correctly and on time.

Rubric format: our Blackboard rubric for this assignment is likely different than others that you have encountered. To provide feedback on each individual entry while still having all of the journal entries collected in one assignment, the rubric is accumulative. That is, each row in the

rubric represents one journal entry, not one characteristic of each entry. This structure provides an accurate running total of your journal points throughout the semester.

Submission reminders

I will not evaluate late or incorrectly submitted journal entries because I review them quickly in order to incorporate their content into the next week's lessons. Only entries submitted on time and in the correct format (in the journal field, not as attached or uploaded files) will earn credit.

Submit entries during the submission window: 12:40 p.m. on Wednesday–11:59 p.m. on Friday.