

Grading Rubric for Journal Assignments

September 23, 2011

Journal writing assignments are designed to encourage students to develop higher-order thinking skills. Some questions will be based on assigned readings from the text. Other questions may be thought-based, asking you to make connections beyond what is covered in class.

Your responses will be graded on a 3 point scale according to the following rubric:

1 Demonstrates completion of assigned coursework

One purpose of these assignments is to simply make sure that students are staying abreast of assigned coursework. Can you demonstrate this in your writing? A successful student will draw connections with assigned coursework, synthesize disparate pieces of information to provide complete answers, and offer examples from class and/or labs that support their arguments.

Full credit = 1 pt.	No credit = 0 pt.
1. Ability to make connections with material covered in class, labs or in assigned readings.	1. Discussion has narrow focus.

2 Thoughtfulness and Comprehension

While it is important to participate in class and labs and keep up with assigned coursework, it is not enough. It is also important that you *understand* the material. So even though you've done the assigned work, if your

response is based on illogical or weak reasoning, then you will not get full credit.

Full credit = 1 pt.	No credit = 0 pt.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ability to use own words without excessive quoting. 2. Demonstrates a willingness to extend thinking via independent research and thought. 3. Demonstrates a firm grasp of the material. 4. All parts of the question are addressed and answered. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extensive use of quotations. 2. Discussion includes inaccuracies or faulty logic. 3. Some parts are left unanswered.

3 Style and Clarity

Since this is not a writing class, I am not going to insist on finely crafted pieces of writing. However, I do expect you to take the time to make sure your work is easy to read and has a logical and coherent flow to it.

Full credit = 1 pt.	No credit = 0 pt.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The writing is <i>concise</i>, clear, accessible, flows logically and is easy to read. 2. The response includes few to no typographical errors. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The writing is unclear, awkward or incomprehensible. 2. The response demonstrates a lack of care, needing revision, with more than a few typographical errors.