

THREE-PART JOURNAL ENTRIES

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The purpose of the 3-part journal is to allow you to turn your service experiences into substantive learning. To do this effectively, you must be careful to differentiate among three kinds of responses: objective accuracy, personal awareness, and intellectual analysis. You should make a journal entry after every community visit or major service task. Write the three parts as follows:

- Normal font: an objective, detailed description of what you did. Your description should be organized in 10-minute segments. If you find yourself simply saying “more of the same,” you are not being sufficiently specific and may not have paid careful enough attention to what was going on. Grading criteria for this section are (1) amount of significant detail, (2) degree of objectivity;
- **Bold font: a self-critical response to your visit, including feelings, thoughts, judgments, and what you can learn about yourself and your assumptions from your experience. Think about your reactions and your attitudes toward people you have encountered. What made you feel comfortable/uncomfortable? What surprised and/or challenged you? Did you stretch your “comfort zone” or did you hide within it? In this section you may also discuss ways in which your experience has influenced your understanding of your community partner/project and the public issues/social problems you are trying to deal with. The grading criteria for this section are skill in self-analysis and social self-awareness – asking not just *what?* but *why?* *what else?* and *what next?***
- *Italics font: a discussion of your experiences in terms of concepts and themes discussed in class and/or class readings. This section should contain NO narrative (section 1) and not focus on you and your reactions (section 2). Instead, it should demonstrate your skill in making connections between community-based experiences and class concerns as well as your skill in using concepts discussed in class to analyze and illuminate your community-based experiences. Always check your class email to see what specific class-related topics and/or texts have been selected for use in any given week. Grading criteria for this section are skill in using course concepts to interpret community experiences and ability to use community experiences to illustrate or challenge course concepts.*

All journal entries should be double-spaced and dated. There is no required length, but anything less than one page each for parts one and two, and two pages for part three may be thin or underdeveloped.