

Journals

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to: (1) practice identifying scientific questions and methodology, (2) critique presentation techniques, and (3) develop your observation skills, sense of place, and cultural awareness.

General Guidelines: This journal will be graded twice throughout the semester (mid-terms and finals). You may type or hand write/draw this assignment, HOWEVER your handwriting must be clearly legible.

Part 1: Seminar Journal (1st half of notebook) Part of this course includes attending the biology seminar each week. First, identify the broader context, the primary question(s), and briefly describe how the speaker answered the question(s). Focus on the major methodology (field, laboratory, experimental, observational, etc.). Secondly, identify both the productive and unproductive oral and visual communication techniques utilized by seminar speakers (e.g., the organization of the presentation, the speaker's communication skills). In 2-3 paragraphs each, reflect on 3-5 components of the presentation that were productive, and 3-5 that were unproductive, include why you felt each component was productive or unproductive.

Part 2: Reflections and Connections (2nd half of notebook) People don't get outside much anymore, this leads to a disconnect between our daily lives and the world outside. In an effort to develop your observation skills and to practice recognizing connections between ecology and daily life, find a place outside and stay for 20 minutes each week. Go to the same place each week. Write a reflection about your observations and any questions that come to mind. Reflect on how ecology and evolution research connect to your daily life. Although these journal entries should be primarily reflection, feel free to cite sources if you look up additional information. Do not look up any information until you have made observations for 20 minutes.