

# Journal Expectations

## Journal Expectations

Perhaps you have already written several journals as a learner, however, this form gives you an idea of the expectations for the journals you will write for this particular service project.

While these journals are intended to be a means for you to reflect on your own thoughts, feelings, and actions, and they are intended to be less formal in nature than a research paper, it is expected that you will follow standard conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation). And while these journals do not need to follow a particular essay format, they do need to be cohesive, understandable, concise and address the appropriate questions.

The following lengths refer to double-spaced, typed pages using a 12 pt. standard font.

**Anticipatory Journal (1-2 pages):** You will complete this journal shortly before beginning your service learning project. In this journal, you should address the following questions:

- What will you be doing?
- What are your expectations?
- What are your feelings on the eve of your service learning project? Are you excited? Nervous?

**Immediate Response (2-3 pages):** You will complete this journal shortly after completing your service learning project (if your project spans several days, this journal will still be completed near the beginning of the project). In this journal, you can address the following questions:

- What exactly did you spend your time doing?
- Did you meet new people during the project? What did you think of them?
- What is your personal response to the work you did? How do you feel about the day's actions?

**History v. Me (2-3 pages):** You will complete this journal after completing your service learning project. In this journal, you will compare yourself and your actions to those of one of the historical figures we studied earlier in the unit. Some questions you may want to address include:

- How am you similar to this historical figure? How are your actions similar to his/her actions?



- How am you different from this historical figure? How do his/her actions differ from your experience?
- What is it that separates heroes from other people? What is it that made your historical figure a hero/heroine? Do your actions make you a hero? If so, why? If not, why not?
- What motivates people to act for the common good? What motivates your historical figure? What motivates you?

**Overall Reflection (3-4 pages):** For this journal entry, consider your previous journal entries from this unit and reflect on some of the following questions:

- What were your intentions at the beginning of the service learning project? Did you manage to accomplish what you set out to do?
- Did you succeed in changing the world for the better? Did you help people? How?
- Have you changed during the unit, either in opinion or in attitude? If so, how did the experience change you? If not, why do you think you were not affected by the service project?
- You identified a problem and took action to correct it. Now what? How will you carry this experience with you? What is next?

