

Checklist for recording in your journal

This course requires you to keep a journal. You will record classroom demonstrations, summaries of reading assignments, new vocabulary and reflections in this journal. You are encouraged to be creative and to develop this journal in your own individual way. Your journal must be bound - it cannot be a spiral notebook.

Getting started

- Your journal must have a table of contents. Leave 4 blank pages at the beginning of your journal so you can record entries in the table of contents.
- Number all the pages of the journal. No pages should ever be removed!
- The first blank page should be your title page. Record a title, the date and your name. You may wish to provide a way that someone can contact you if your journal is lost.

Recording a demonstration

- Create an entry in the table of contents with the page number. (Pages should be numbered already.)
- Record the date and the time.
- Provide a meaningful title for the demonstration
- Record the objective. Answer the question "What is the point of the demonstration?".
- Record the equipment and materials that are used for the demonstration.
- Describe what happens - record any chemical changes and physical changes that occur.
- Provide diagrams with labels that show clearly how the demonstration is set up.
- Record any data provided.
- IMPORTANT! Reflect on the demonstration - explain what occurs and why it occurs.**
- Leave space for follow-up research. Sometimes a reference will be provided and you are expected to visit a link on the Internet.

Keeping a glossary

- Begin a section in the back of the journal to record words you need to look up to understand. This is your glossary of terminology. Whenever you come across a word you don't understand enter it into the journal and write the definition of this word.

Recording a summary of a reading assignment

- As you read articles and news stories you should take notes. As you think about these articles you should also write down some questions you have about these reading assignments. Your questions are very important! You will be asked to bring these questions to class.

Your own thoughts

- Throughout the course you are encouraged to write about your own experiences and thoughts as these relate to the course topics. Remember to date all entries!