

REFLECTIVE BLOG INSTRUCTIONS

Critical Reflection involves “*intentional consideration of an experience in light of particular learning objectives*” (Hatcher & Bringle, 1997), and has been shown to deepen learning (e.g., Ash & Clayton, 2009). To help you get the most out of this course, you will maintain a personal blog in which you reflect upon what you have learned in each unit, and why it matters.

 We'll follow the Ash & Clayton (2009) model of critical reflection, known as “**DEAL: Describe, Examine, and Articulate Learning.**” You'll want to devote at least one complete paragraph to each of the three key areas. Here they are:

Describe – Describe what you have done during the learning unit.

- DO: Answer the Who? What? Where? When? and How? of the learning experience(s). Describe what you read, heard, discussed and did.
- DON'T: Simply recite a “laundry list” of the readings and assignments.

Examine – Examine your learning experience(s) of the learning unit.

- DO: Identify how your specific learning experience(s) during this unit tie in with the overall course objectives (see syllabus) and/or unit objectives (from the Pp slides).
- DO: Ask yourself how the material covered in this course relates to/builds upon other courses you're taking/have taken.
- DON'T: Worry about a “right answer” here – this is YOUR personal reflection on learning.

Articulate Learning – Explain how your experiences during this unit translate into substantive learning that you can apply now and in the future.

- DO: Answer these questions - What did I learn? Why does it matter? How can I use it in the future?
- DO: Set personal goals for yourself based on the learning. For example, how can you apply the learning to your current or future job? What gap(s) still exist in your learning, and what do you need to do to fill it in?
- DON'T: Skimp on your personal reflection time – this exercise is for YOU.

Post your three-paragraph entry before you take the end-of-unit quiz.

Blog postings will be assessed based on this Rubric:

Below Standard 0 – 7 points	Acceptable 8 – 14 points	Meets Standard 15 – 20 points
The quality of the posted information is of low quality, off topic, or irrelevant to the discussion.	The quality of the posted information is of acceptable quality but lacks demonstration of substantive reflective thought.	The quality of the posted information is of good to high quality and shows insight and reflection.

Ash, S. and Clayton, P. (2009). “Generating, deepening, and documenting learning: The power of critical reflection in applied learning”, *Journal of Applied Learning in Higher Education*, 1(1), 25-48.

Hatcher, J. and Bringle, R. (1997). “Reflection: Bridging the gap between service and learning”, *College Teaching*, 45(4), 153-158.