

Course Learning Journal Guide

- ❖ Your ability to develop a personal learning journal is the capstone of the course. The learning journal will provide a framework for you to think about what you learned in the course and an opportunity to continually examine your personal development as a financial analyst, critical thinker, and executive decision-maker.
- ❖ The construction of your learning journal begins with a daily journal that evolves as you read about, discuss, and experience the implementation of different ideas presented in the course.
- ❖ Overall, the learning journal should capture the daily snapshots of your: 1) personal values (how you view the information offered throughout the course), 2) concepts and ideas that you have accumulated, and 3) personal reflections on your experiences, perspectives, competencies, weaknesses, and biases that the course caused you to address.
- ❖ The final document that you turn in should:
 - o Be a condensed summary of your daily entries, organized in a manner that is easy to follow.
 - o Include a cover sheet and an error-free text body.
 - o Be written in a business-writing format that is crisp, to the point, and adequately supported by examples, anecdotes, and facts.
- ❖ Your learning journal will be evaluated based on your thoughtfulness and thoroughness in addressing the following points:
 - o **Growth:** Give examples of how your original ideas/concepts/beliefs about managerial accounting were challenged and adjusted.
 - o **Application:** Apply lessons learned in the course to your own real-world experiences/environment.
 - o **Analysis:** Give examples of how your analytical skills were developed and put to use.
 - o **Synthesis:** Give examples of how you were able to put together separate ideas to form or establish new relationships.

Learning Journal Sample Outline

1. Introduction
2. Growth
 - a. Example 1: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative
 - i. *Give examples of how your original ideas/concepts/beliefs about managerial accounting were challenged and adjusted. Growth may include:*
 1. *New knowledge that has been learned but has yet to be applied.*
 2. *Contrary notions that have trumped your old ideas/concepts/beliefs.*
 3. *Reinforcements and extensions to tried-and-true ideas/concepts/beliefs that you continue to retain.*
 - b. Example 2: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative (as above)
 - c. Example 3: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative (as above)
3. Application
 - a. Example 1: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative
 - i. *Apply lessons learned in the course to your own real-world experiences/environment.*

1. *These applications may have already occurred in your experience or you may point out potential applications that you are now able to foresee.*
2. *Go further than merely telling how a particular idea/concept/lesson would be applied.*
3. *In addition, give compelling reasons why this particular application is appropriate and will likely be successful.*
- b. Example 2: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative (as above)
- c. Example 3: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative (as above)
4. Analysis
 - a. Example 1: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative
 - i. *Give examples of how your analytical skills were developed and put to use.*
 1. *Analysis is a systematic approach to problem solving.*
 2. *Complex problems are made simpler by separating them into more understandable elements.*
 3. *This involves the identification of purposes and facts, the statement of defensible assumptions, and the formulation of conclusions.*
 4. *Analytical skills involve seeing relationships, determining if-then causalities, finding evidence to support a theory, and making judgments and decisions using a set of criteria.*
 - b. Example 2: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative (as above)
 - c. Example 3: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative (as above)
5. Synthesis
 - a. Example: Managerial Accounting Topic and your narrative
 - i. *Give an example of how you were able to put together separate ideas to form or establish new relationships.*
 1. *Synthesis involves putting together ideas and knowledge in a new and unique form.*
 2. *This is where innovations truly take place. It is the process of bringing the pieces of an analysis together to make a whole.*

6. Conclusion

Final Notes:

- Length should be between 5,000 and 7,500 words.
- Concepts from The Goal should be included wherever appropriate.
- Any lessons learned from studying the cases covered in the course should be included.
- The practice of creative inquiry (asking interesting questions) should be demonstrated.
- Due (emailed to me: pforsich@csus.edu) by 11:59pm, Tuesday, of Finals Week.