

Course Learning Journal Outline Guide

Construct an outline that will be the framework of your Learning Journal. If you need a refresher on best practices for writing an outline, here is a short video to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ifS9c8I-so>

The first level of the full outline (before any sub points) should be as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION
2. **GROWTH**
3. **APPLICATION**
4. **ANALYSIS**
5. SYNTHESIS
6. CONCLUSION

For purposes of this deliverable, you are to expand (with subpoints) only the GROWTH, APPLICATION, and ANALYSIS sections of the outline. Eventually, the rest of this outline (SYNTHESIS, INTRODUCTION, AND CONCLUSION) should be completed by you in preparation for your final Learning Journal draft (which will be in narrative form). The content of your outline should be written in a business-writing format that is crisp and to point. Complete sentences and proper grammar will be needed in the narrative form of your Learning Journal final draft but are not necessary in this outline format.

1. Introduction

(This section will be developed later.)

2. Growth (at least 3 examples)

Personal reflections on how my understanding and perspective on managerial accounting have evolved through the course.

- **a. Example 1: Cost Concepts (Optional topic: just a suggestion)**
 - Reflection on initial misconceptions about cost concepts and how they have been reshaped.
 - Insights gained on the application of cost concepts in decision-making processes.
- **b. Example 2: CVP Analysis (Optional topic: just a suggestion)**
 - Exploration of how CVP analysis challenged and refined my strategic planning and forecasting skills.
 - Examples of newfound applications of CVP analysis in optimizing financial outcomes.
- **c. Example 3: Activity-Based Costing (Optional topic: just a suggestion)**
 - Discussion on the initial skepticism towards the complexity of activity-based costing and its transformation into appreciation for its precision and utility.
 - Real-world scenarios where activity-based costing could enhance operational efficiency.

3. Application (at least 3 examples; but not necessarily the 3 examples used in the Growth section)

Demonstrating the practical application of managerial accounting principles learned in the course to both professional and personal settings.

- **a. Example 1: Relevant Costing in Decision Making (Optional topic: just a suggestion)**
 - Instances where insights into relevant costing have influenced real-life business decisions.
 - Potential future applications in optimizing cost structures and improving profitability.
- **b. Example 2: Applying CVP Analysis in Real-World Scenarios (Optional topic: just a suggestion)**
 - How CVP analysis has been or can be used to navigate financial uncertainties in business operations.
- **c. Example 3: Leveraging Activity-Based Costing for Competitive Advantage (just a suggestion)**
 - Application of activity-based costing principles in identifying cost drivers and reallocating resources for better financial management.

4. Analysis (The Problem; The Goal; Throughput; ID Bottlenecks; Ways to “Break” Bottlenecks)

In-depth analysis of a complex problem, applying throughput accounting and managerial accounting concepts and methodologies to devise strategic solutions.

a. Problem Identification

- Description of a complex financial or operational problem encountered in a professional or personal context.
- Demonstrate how you would break this complex problem down into smaller, more manageable parts.

b. Goal Setting and Throughput Analysis

- Determination of the overarching goal and the throughput necessary to achieve this goal.
- Define how you would measure throughput (a rate) in order to monitor progress in achieving the goal.

c. Bottleneck Identification and Management

- Identification of the primary bottleneck restricting throughput.
- Describe how you would “break” (e.g., exploit, subordinate, elevate) this bottleneck to maximize throughput.

d. Solutions and Future Bottlenecks

- Predict what the next highest priority bottleneck might be after you have “broken” the first one.

5. Synthesis

(This section will be developed later.)

6. Conclusion

(This section will be developed later.)

Additional Guidelines for the Outline and Final Paper:

- Incorporate a personal and subjective tone in your writing style, using first-person narratives to reflect on growth, application, analysis, and synthesis of topics covered in the course.
- Emphasize the development of critical thinking and creative inquiry by asking insightful questions and exploring complex problems with the concepts learned.
- Structure the paper with clear headings and sub-headings for each section and concept discussed, ensuring logical flow and coherence.
- Deepen the outline with detailed examples and reflections to ensure a content-rich final narrative, avoiding fluff and disorganization.
- Apply managerial accounting concepts specifically at bottleneck points to solve complex problems, following the strategic approach outlined in "The Goal".

Your outline should be submitted in the Canvas Assignments Module as an MS Word document by the date and time posted on the course website.