

Learning Log Variations (1 of 2)

A learning log is different from a journal entry in that it is related to the subject materials at hand. In journals, you are usually asked to write about what happened in your life. In a learning log, you are asked either to take what you have been learning in class and reflect on it in some way, or to relate something outside of class to what you have been learning in class. By making personal connections with the subject matter, meaningful learning will occur. Learning logs can be used in conjunction with note-taking.

Basic Learning Log Questions

What did you do in class today?

What did you learn?

What did you find interesting?

What questions do you have about what you learned?

Analyzing a New Idea

What were the main ideas?

What did you understand best?

What questions do you still have about this information?

How will you find more information?

How does this idea relate to what you have already learned in class?

Quickwrites

Write non-stop for two to five minutes on a specific topic that you are studying. The purpose of focused writing is for you to find out what you know about a topic, to explore new ideas, and to find out what you need to learn about a topic.

Student-Written Essay Exam Questions

Good answers to essay questions depend in part on a clear understanding of the meanings of key words in the directions, such as summarize, evaluate, contrast, justify, etc. If a student is asked to compare two characters in a novel, and she describes them instead, she is not answering the question—even if she demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the two characters in her answer. Writing your own essay questions for the purpose of studying for an exam not only helps you to study, but also teaches you how to respond to key directive words. 1) Write an exam question that uses a directive word. 2) Next, respond in writing to your own question.

Solomon, B., Bugno, T., Kelly, M., Risi, R., Serret-Lopez, C., & Sundly, J. (2011). *The Student Success Path*. San Diego, CA: AVID Press.

Learning Log Variations (2 of 2)

"Showing" Vocabulary or a New Concept

Memorized vocabulary words are too soon forgotten. New words that you make your own are not. This is an excellent way to help build your vocabulary.

- 1) As you read, copy down an unfamiliar word and the sentence you found it in.
 - 2) Look the word up in the dictionary. Write the definition down. If you are unsure of the definition, ask the teacher or another student.
 - 3) Write a paragraph that shows the meaning of the word without telling the definition.
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Writing About the News

Part of what makes one literate is being aware of what is happening in the world. Choose an event unfolding in the media that is related to what is being studied in class.

- 1) Describe the event in detail.
 - 2) What classroom topic does the event relate to and why?
 - 3) What are your personal feelings about the event?
 - 4) Why does this event interest you?
 - 5) What do you predict will be the outcome of this event? Why?
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Life Application

Apply the concepts you learned in class today to your life. How do they affect your everyday being? What would happen if they suddenly changed or ceased to exist? Example topics might be: gravity, democracy, a written language, multiplication, the calculator, and so on.

Creative Solutions

You can be creative. Take a real-world problem that relates to what is being studied in class (e.g., air pollution, global warming, trash) and come up with creative solutions for this problem. Allow your solutions to be outlandish and unrealistic. Real solutions have often arisen from activities similar to this one.

Solomon, B., Bugno, T., Kelly, M., Risi, R., Serret-Lopez, C., & Sundly, J. (2011). *The Student Success Path*. San Diego, CA: AVID Press.

Learning Log

Directions: Fill out this learning log based on what you learned in class today.

What I did	How I worked and How I learned	What I learned

Valdez, S., Carter, M., & Rodgers, J. (2013). *The Write Path English Language Arts: Informing Ourselves and Others Through Writing and Speaking*. San Diego, CA: AVID Press.

Weekly Learning Log

Name: _____

Quarter: _____

Begin Date: _____

Period: _____

Week of _____ to _____

English/Language Arts:

My Favorite Activity:

Mathematics:

My Favorite Activity:

Social Studies:

My Favorite Activity:

Science:

My Favorite Activity:

Foreign Language:

My Favorite Activity:

AVID:

My Favorite Activity:

Risi, R., Schiro, P., & Serret-Lopez, C. (2005). *Strategies for Success*. San Diego, CA: AVID Press.

Learning Log Questions

Name: _____

Quarter: _____

Begin Date: _____

Period: _____

This activity includes general learning log questions, as well as questions by subject area. Work with your students to add to the lists below. It may be helpful to keep these learning log questions posted in the AVID classroom and/or for students to keep a copy of this activity in their binders.

Basic Learning Log Questions

Review your notes from class and complete the following questions:

- What did you do in class today?
- What did you learn today?
- What did you find interesting today?
- What questions do you have about what you learned today?

Writing About Mathematics

Write a letter to another student in the tutorial group explaining, in detail, how to do a math problem that you are studying. Writing about math will force you to slow down and think carefully about the process that you go through in learning a math concept or solving a math problem. You must use very precise language in your explanation or the person who receives your letter might not understand what you are explaining.

Writing About Social Studies

"You Are There" Scenes:

Place yourself within a historical period or event that you are studying and write about it from the point of view of someone who is there. In your response, focus on: "What," "Who," "Why," "How," and "What If." Share and discuss your responses with other members of the class or in your tutorial group.

Dialogues:

Write a dialogue between yourself and a person in history, or alternatively, between two characters in a story or novel that you are studying. Again, in your response, focus on: "What," "Who," "Why," "How," and "What If."

Focused Writing

Write nonstop for 5 to 10 minutes on a specific topic that you are studying (e.g., a scientific process, a play, or a historical event). The purpose of focused writing is for you to find out what you know about the topic, to explore new ideas, and to find out what you still need to learn about the topic.

Risi, R., Schiro, P., & Serret-Lopez, C. (2005). *Strategies for Success*. San Diego, CA: AVID Press.