

The Powerful Learning Log

Making a decision on what learning log to write

- **Read lecture notes: (listen and write)**
- **Observe and write**
- **Discuss and write**
- **Research (online, library, textbook)**

From my thinking and doing in class and out of class I decide what to write. Is there a class where I am having trouble? Is there a class where a lot is going on this week? Good notes and records are critical to learning more from my reflections in my learning log.

Sample language for “What did I do?”

Highlighted **wrote notes** **drew** **actively listened (watched)** **observed**
Printed out **asked questions** **discussed with others** **logged** **presented**

I suppose there are a lot of other activities I used. I use this list to help get started. I must write a lot to say all the ideas that may have gone into my learning over one week.

Thoughts for “What did I learn?”

- **Several paragraphs will be needed**
- **Be specific, this may include a number of smaller learnings**
- **Use lots of details, particularly to explain procedures and clarify what interested me**
- **Be conscience of audience**

This is the tough part for me, because I do not want to leave out anything that I have learned. Sometimes I have so many small things that I have to say that it is easy to leave out something, which I then do not remember for when I need it later.

How to approach “What did I find fascinating?”

- **Focus on one or two ideas**
- **Use many sentences to clearly describe/explain**

Occasionally I do not find anything really fascinating, but anything can be of interest. It is to my own benefit that I look for what is unique, different or fresh in whatever I am learning. It helps me give my best effort.

Choosing the right questions for “What questions do I now have?”

- **Brainstorm a list of many questions**
- **Some will be from what interested me**
- **Others will be from the problems I had in understanding**

Good questions do not always come easily to me, so I try to think of a number, so that the best of them are powerful questions. Some of my question I cannot find the answers to, but they are still valuable to have asked. Others are written because I am seeking to understand or to improve my understanding beyond what is taught in the classroom. These questions become my tutorial questions.