SUGGESTIONS FOR USING JOURNALS in PY/ED912

SOME DEFINITIONS:

- a place to practice personal expressive and analytic writing
- an individual record of educational experiences
- a writing workshop
- a place to try out ideas, thoughts, theories, actions

Diary
("I"-"Subjective")

Journal
("I"-"It")

Class Notebook
("It"-"Objective")

WHAT SHOULD I WRITE?

- personal reactions to group, participants, coordinator, space in class and in the field
- informal notes, jottings, clippings, scraps of information
- explorations of ideas, theories, concepts, problems, ideas for action
- reviews of related articles, movies, books, T.V., recordings
- www sites, listservs, or other related resources
- whatever you want to explore or remember
- reflections on the group process, on how we are or are not creating a teaching-learning community
- records of thought, feelings, moods, experiences related to the course

WHEN SHOULD I WRITE?

- at least twice a week
- when you have problems to solve, decisions to make, confusions to clarify
- when you need to practice or try something out
- whenever else you feel like it

HOW SHOULD I WRITE?

- in your own voice
- don't worry about formal language conventions
- take risks and explore your own voice
- freely
- ideally you should type your entries – if this inhibits your free expression you may write in pen BUT be sure your handwriting is readable if you are not typing – but you must type the entries (#1, 2, and the one for your week as discussant of readings) that are submitted to Blackboard Vista

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS:

1. Date each entry
2. Write long entries as often as possible to help develop ideas fully
3. Please note deadlines for submission. Also if you want additional ideas about preparing your Journal I am happy to read an entry or two. The samples posted on Blackboard Vista are NOT meant to be restrictive but rather to provide you with one or two examples of work of previous students.

MBL, 8/2010