

Student Journals

These guidelines are given to students in a Chance Course at Dartmouth. See <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~chance/> for more information of the Chance courses.

Instructions to students:

Each student should keep a journal for the course. This journal will include:

- Specific assignments that you have been asked to do for your journal. These will include questions they you are asked to think and write about, related to the current day's discussion, the results of computer investigations, etc.
- General comments about the class; things you don't understand; things you finally do understand. You might describe an experience of trying to explain material from class to a friend or family member.
- Finding and commenting on news articles about topics relevant to the course; asking us challenging questions; making connections between what went on in class and experiences in your own life; going to a casino and winning a lot of money.
- Anything interesting and imaginative about a chance topic.

A good journal should answer questions asked, and raise questions of your own, with evidence that some time has been spent thinking about the questions. In addition, there should be evidence of original thought: evidence that you have spent some time thinking about things that you weren't specifically asked about. In writing in your journal, exposition is important. If you are presenting the answer to a question, explain what the question is. If you are giving an argument, explain what the point is before you launch into it. What you should aim for is something that could communicate to a friend or a colleague a coherent idea of what you have been thinking and doing in the course.

You are encouraged to cooperate with each other in working on anything in the course, but what you put in your journal should be you. If it is something that has emerged from work with other people, write down who you have worked with. Ideas that come from other people should be given proper attribution. If you have referred to sources other than the texts for the course, cite them.