

BIO 120 Journal Guidelines and Rubric

Journal activities in this course are private between you and the instructor. There are five journal assignments asking you to discuss biological concepts that help us to understand and protect the world we leave in. Each journal is graded separately.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

- I. Critical thinking and reflection in learning Biology
- II. Integration of course material

Guidelines for Submission: Each journal assignment must be 350 to 450 words. Submit journal assignment as a Word document. Submit assignment as a Word document with double spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Critical Thinking and Reflection in Learning Biology	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses specific examples of personal experience, previous learning, or logical thought process to illustrate points	Logically and clearly describes personal experiences with biology and how these have changed or are changing over time	Describes personal experiences with biology and how these have changed or are changing over time, but description is vague or general	Does not describe personal experiences with biology and how these have changed or are changing over time	45
Integration of Course Material	Meets “Proficient” criteria and supports discussion with examples	Discusses specific biology information and knowledge from the course with personal significance	Discusses biology information and knowledge from the course, but discussion is general and the significance to the student is unclear	Does not discuss specific biology information and knowledge from the course with personal significance	45
Articulation of Response	Journal assignment is free of errors in organization and grammar	Journal assignment is mostly free of errors of organization and grammar, which are marginal and rarely interrupt the flow	Journal assignment contains errors of organization and grammar, but they are limited enough so that assignment can be understood	Journal assignment contains errors of organization and grammar, making the journal difficult to understand	10
Total					100%