

Guidelines/ directions for writing a log of the course.

1. The LOG is an important record of your performance in the course and will be used for grading purposes, evaluation of effort and as a means for the faculty to evaluate the amount and kinds of learning taking place. Secondly, it provides feedback to the director and the faculty members as to ways in which the course and the teachers are meeting stated objectives and how instruction might be improved. It also provides a permanent record for each student of what they observed, learned, thought and experienced during the Marine Biology/ Coral Reef Ecology course on the island of San Salvador. The faculty will do a preliminary evaluation of the logs a few days into the course to provide guidance. Logs will be graded and given back at the conclusion of the course.

2. Each student should write in their log every day, even when special times are not set aside for that purpose. Any “free” time during the course should be devoted to the log. A full description of each day should be included.

3. Students may elect to follow their own specific style in writing their journal but the narrative should be in a normal journalistic writing style, i.e. not abbreviated or in note or outline form. Also, attention should be paid to penmanship to the extent that writing is clear and easily read by faculty members. Either pen or pencil may be used but if in pencil it should be dark enough to be read easily and if in pen it should not show through the backs of the pages so as to make reading difficult. Colored pencils may be useful in sketches of the sites, organisms, etc

4. At least one and possibly two sections of a 4-5 section spiral notebook of standard 8½ x 11 size should be set aside for the journal. Open spaces should be left in the daily narrative so that sketches or additional information, ideas , etc may be added later. It is suggested that the first two sections of your notebook be set aside for the journal. (Make sure your name is clearly printed on the front of your notebook in large letters.)

5. The following should be included in your daily entries:

a. A chronology of what you did during the course of the day, by major time blocks. In other words, a LOG.

- b. Sites visited and special environmental features noted at each site. Include land features of interest, such as type of coastal substrate, depth and contours of the site, weak or strong wave action, etc. A sketch of each site is recommended.
- c. Organisms found at the site and specific location collected, e.g., on surface of sand, under rock, on top of reef in tube, in association with other plants animals, etc.
- d. Field or lab identification, etc. Find common and scientific names (genus and species), classification/ phylogeny of the organisms – include sketches, names of any reference resource used. Add observations of other features of the organisms (may need to refer to guides for this) such as color, size, form, etc.
- e. Special notes of value: observations or organisms made by other members of the class, problems encountered, etc
- f. Description of major or minor patterns in the distribution of organisms (e.g. juvenile clumping, mutualisms, high productivity, increased predation, diversity gradients) that catch your attention in the environment. Then, further reflection and thought and what could be the major processes/forces generating and maintaining those patterns in nature. Include, in this discussion research question you might ask if you had time to test hypotheses you come up with that link potential processes underlying patterns you see in nature. THIS IS ECOLOGY!!!!!!!!!!
- g. Interactions with islanders or others you encountered, cultural observations
- h. Thoughts or ideas that may be of scientific or personal nature. You are encouraged to personalize your log and make it interesting to you now and in the future. Be appropriate in all of your comments. If you are humorous, be in good taste. Only the faculty will read the logs but impress us with your imagination, seriousness, observation and recording skills and with the effort put into writing your log.