PH 201 Weekly Journals

Goals of activity:

- To help you connect with physics in a personal way.
- To help you personalize your experience in physics and reflect upon what you've learned and how you've grown.
- To develop an aesthetic appreciation around the world around you.
- To use your imagination, to know how to synthesize a sense of exploration with critical thinking.

This journal is a safe place, where thoughts are encouraged, not criticized. Journal assignments will be due every Friday. This is where you can be reflective about what you've learned in class, your past experiences with physics, current themes in science, and other topics. Please choose a theme to write about each week that is somehow related to the material discussed in class. Under each theme are some starting questions to help you brainstorm. These entries are not expected to be more than a page or two, hand written.

Even though the Journal is mainly meant to be a path of reflection and feedback for you to me I would like you to have at the end of the term a good document for yourself that allows you to reflect on your learning over the complete term. Therefore each week you will include at least one key learning and one question you have about the material.

You journal will include at least 1) one picture, 2) one graph or diagram, and 3) one equation that is relevant for the understanding of your chosen topic of the week. These can be related to your key learning, your question, or your topic of the week. You see that for the discussion of your own interest in the world you will use the same tools we use in class. This will motivate you to reflect closely on the material we have just covered. These three representations can all describe the same problem or topic, actually it makes a lot of sense to have them connect to each other. Each of these has to be described and explained to the reader, so they can be understood for students or people in general that have not been in class.

Possible Themes:

1. Physical Concepts:
   - What are key concepts, analytical processes, experimentation processes or beliefs about science that I have grasped?
   - How was my knowledge changed?
   - How has my approach to problem solving changed?
2. Reflections on learning:
   - What helps me think scientifically and talk scientifically?
   - How have I changed my approach to solving problems?
   - What helps me be motivated?
   - What do I value in particular about activities or working with people?
3. Ideas:
   - New ideas or things that trigger ideas.
   - What inspires me? What intrigues me?
   - What surprises me today?
4. Explorations:
   - Play around with ideas through: poetry, prose, imaginary dialogues, cartoons, pictures, stories, concept maps, scripts, etc.
5. Questions:
   - What bothers me?
   - What would I like to know? (about the course, the universe, or life...be quantitative)

PH 201: Journal Rubric Name:

CATEGORY	EXEMPLARY	ACCOMPLISHED	DEVELOPING	EMERGENT
Personal Connection	You feedback is valuable for the entire class. I cannot do any different but share it with the class	**Communicates one learning of the week and asks at least one question**	**You say you learned something this week, or you ask a question**	No personal feedback
Picture Graph, Diagram Equation	Elegant connection of all tools in a pedagogic elegant way	**Your reflection is supported by at least 1) one picture, 2) one graph, diagram or other physics tool and 3) one equation**	**You supported your thought with some physics representation**	What representation?

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