

PCM YEAR 1 — JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT

Fall Term 2009

Due: Wednesday, November 11 (to small group facilitator, at the beginning of small groups)

PCM Late Policy:

Scores are reduced by 1 point on assignments a day or less late, two points on those two to seven days late. Essay assignments received more than one week past the due date automatically receive a marginal grade.

Goal:

The purpose of the essay requirement each quarter is for you to provide the faculty with an example of the way you individually **integrate** the various concepts presented in PCM into your own view of your future role as a physician: ethics, behavioral science, clinical interviewing, doctor-patient communication, physician roles, health care systems/ organization and financing, epidemiology, and health promotion. You are expected to **give evidence** that you are using small group discussions, syllabus readings, preceptorship experiences and independent inquiries to shape your own understanding of the professional role physicians play in our society.

Requirements:

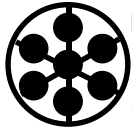
1 copy per facilitator, typewritten, 4 entries (1-2 pages each) should total 4-8 pages double-spaced. Each entry should be DATED and TITLED so that it is clear what topic the student is addressing and when in the term they are writing about it.

Writing Format and Content:

Each quarter you will be assigned a different writing assignment appropriate to a given topic or issue relating to material taught that quarter. All students will be expected to adhere to the same assignment and format each quarter—to ensure standardization and fairness for all students in the class, facilitators should NOT make exceptions to these requirements. Those students handing in written work which do not adhere to the assigned format and content—no matter how well done—will be asked to rewrite the assignment before receiving a final grade for the course.

Scoring of Essay Assignments:

Your small group facilitator(s) will read your entire journal at the end of the quarter and arrive at a consensus score (12.5 % of your PCM grade) based on the scoring rubric outlined on the following page.



Fall Quarter Year 1 Assignment:

During this first quarter of PCM, your assignment is to keep a first-person reflective journal written in response to topics presented in PCM. At the end of the quarter, students will turn in a total of 4 journal entries: approximately one every other week. Each should be dated and written according to students' experiences as of the time written.

The purpose of this professional growth journal is to communicate to your facilitators how you are integrating content covered in Principles of Clinical Medicine into your conception of your role as a future physician. Each Wednesday from 1-3pm in PCM there will be a presentation, readings, and a small group discussion. After at least 4 of these (you may wish to write after every session and choose your best 4 to turn in) reflect upon the session chosen and relate it in some way to your personal experience. You may find yourself writing about your patient exam sessions, your Basic Science classes, your preceptorship, novels/films you may have seen, or any other experience you've had which relates to the issue you are writing about.

Do not confuse this assignment with a standard academic paper. Do not feel you have to talk about everything covered in a session: for each entry, select a single, personally meaningful aspect to explore in some depth. Your entries should be narrative and reflective in nature, recording your own responses and thoughts this first, very significant, quarter of medical school. Each of your 4 journal entries should be a "mini-essay of the week," with a question or thesis clearly stated to which you then respond. Each should be DATED and TITLED.

Grading criteria:

Grading will be primarily concerned with completion of the project according to directions, demonstration of integration and understanding, creativity and/or depth of thinking, and the overall quality of the writing. Criteria are detailed in the rubric, available on PCM Online.

Some small group facilitators may be willing to read and give you feedback on your journal entries after you have written them. Any feedback on drafts handed in could then be used for revisions and improving future journal entries. Grading will only be done on the **FINAL COPY** handed in at the end of the quarter.

Final Note:

While we expect you to discuss your ideas with each other, you are expected to write your own individual journal entries. Course administration will be monitoring assignments turned in for different groups. Students turning in duplicate or plagiarized work will be referred to the Student Progress Board for disciplinary action.