

## Learning Logs

When you can not take notes in class, the following questions could be used to guide students in making thoughtful entries in their learning logs. Learning logs must be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page long to count for a full page of notes.

1. What did I do in class today?
2. What did I learn?
3. What did I find interesting?
4. What questions do I have about what I learned?
5. What was the point of today's lesson?
6. What connections did I make to previous ideas of lessons?

If you would like to be more creative with your learning logs, here are a few alternative ways of writing one.

### 1. Writing about Mathematics

Students write an explanation to another student of how to do a math problem. They should include the *why* of the solution as well as the *how*. Show an example of how to complete the math problem step by step.

### 2. Writing about History

Students place themselves in a historical period or event and write about it from the point of view of someone who is there. In their responses, students focus on the *what*, *where*, *why*, *how*, *when*, and *what if*. Or students write a dialogue between themselves and a historical personage, focusing on the same details.

### 3. Writing about Science

Students write an explanation of an experiment they conducted in class. Explain the problem, the hypothesis, the procedure, and describe the results. Explain if your hypothesis was correct and what you concluded from the experiment. Did the results surprise you in any way? Why

or why not? Explain how this experiment helps you better understand the science concept(s) you are studying.

#### 4. Focused Writing

Focused writing is an excellent way to begin a collaborative session. Students write non-stop for five minutes on a specific topic they are studying. The purpose is for students to find out what they know about the topic, to explore new ideas, and to find out what they need to learn about the topic.