LEARNING LOGS

Purpose

Individual Learning Logs are critical components of this online class. Essentially, the Learning Log is a reflective journal that chronicles your learning experiences with: (a) the course objectives, (b) assigned readings, (c) individual assignments, and (d) community of fellow learners.

You are the expert on your own learning, and this class should be a kind of journey. The Learning Log is intended to give you an opportunity to reflectively capture that journey. Please feel free to chronicle the problems and failures (e.g. readings you had difficulty with, concepts that didn't make sense, assignments that didn't seem to work for you) as well as the successes.

The Learning Log is the designated place to write your reflection statement for each assignment. These posts will help you in your last course, SLM 550 Professional Portfolio, where you'll be selecting artifacts from your previous courses and writing reflection statements. These artifacts will document that you have met the ALA/AASL Standards for Initial Preparation of School Librarians (2010). See the SLM page for examples of previous candidates' professional portfolios.

Background

For reflections on assignments, we are following the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) requirement for written commentaries. **There are three parts: description, analysis, and reflection.** As a result, when you seek National Board certification, you will be familiar with the format.

By reflecting in this way, you will set the foundation for a routine of consistent professional reflection on growth and needs of your program and your growth and needs as a school librarian.   These reflections will provide the basis and justification for your decisions about your professional development.

Your Task

We will use the Blackboard blog feature for our class Learning Logs. You will see a link to the Learning Logs / blog feature on the main course menu of Blackboard.

1. You are expected to make a *minimum* of two submissions per module for a **proficient** score. You may create as many entries as you like to your Learning Log during a module, but three strong posts are plenty.
2. Please title your posts beginning with the words: Module 1, Module 2, Module 3, and/or Module 4 and then include a unique subtitle for each post.
3. In a beginning post, review the module objectives and create a personal learning goal(s) for the assignment/readings, module as a way to make your learning "authentic." Consider creating a heading called **"Personal Learning Goal"** in this first post as a way to organize your thoughts. You may want to revisit your goal(s) in the final post for that module.
4. In a concluding post, address these two topic headings: **"Description"** and **"Analysis and Reflection."** Describe what you learned and how you did it. What will you do differently next time? This reflective process is most useful if you examine not just what you learned but how you can learn better. What will I do next? This is another critical part of the reflection process because it involves planning ahead. To answer this question completely, you may want to consider what you can do differently next time, how you want to improve, what more you want to learn, and how you want to grow.
5. Consider identifying one **"aha"** moment per module. You may want to explain what 'big idea,' concept or issue from this module had the greatest impact on your thinking. Why?

6. How have your ideas and opinions evolved as a result of our discussions? How has your participation in our discussions impacted you personally? What are you learning from our class members? Consider making connections between the readings, assignments, discussions, and class members.
7. Consider posting comments on classmates' learning logs/blogs.

Upon Completion

At the end of each module, your teacher will use this rubric and post your points in the "Grade Center." In Module 1, she will complete the rubric for you. In the remaining modules, she'll insert the points in the Grade Center. If you have questions on the points assigned, study the rubric and figure out what was missing in your posts. Then, you may also ask the teacher for additional feedback.

In Module 4, complete the log by the last Thursday at 11:59 p.m.

LEARNING LOG RUBRIC *Assignment Value: 6 points per module for total of 24 points or 12% of Total Grade*				
	Exemplary 21-24 points	**Proficient** 19-20 points	**Developing** 16-18 points	**Unsatisfactory** 0-15 points
Frequency & Headings	**1.5 Points** More than 2 entries per module. Entries are evenly spaced throughout the two-week module. Thread titles begin with Module 1,2,3, or 4 and include a subtitle.	**1 point** 2 entries per module. Titles begin with Module 1,2,3, or 4.	**.5 Points** 1 entry per module. All posts may be made on the same day. Thread titles don't help organize the reflections.	**0 Points** Incomplete postings. Thread titles don't help organize the reflections.
Connecting the learning experiences with course objectives, readings, classmate discussions, assignments ALA/AASL standards; **Reflections and Conclusions**	**4.5 points** Creates posts demonstrating: (1) personal learning goal, (2) description, analysis, and reflection, identifying what you want do differently, how you want to grow; (3) reflection on assignment; (4) an 'aha' moment; (5) making connections. Entries are characterized by the depth of reflective analysis and demonstrates growth over the module.	**4 points** Demonstrates 3 exemplary criteria. Entries are often reflective and occasionally demonstrate growth over the module. Clear straightforward prose.	**3.5 points** Demonstrates 1-2 exemplary criteria. May have some awkward prose. Entries may not be reflective and may not demonstrate growth over the module.	**0-3 points** May be missing exemplary criteria. May be missing reflection or growth.