

Double-Entry Guidelines

The Double-Entry journal is utilized to facilitate student learning and encourage discussion. Writing in this format helps students take notes, relate new information to personal experience and academic learning, and generate new ideas. The best way to employ this format is to fold a piece of notebook paper in half, or draw a line (vertically) and allot two columns, containing the information below. Students should keep a notebook designated for the Double-Entry Journal and be aware of readings requiring the Double-Entry, all of which are indicated on the syllabus. (See example below)

Title of Article/Journal

Record (left side)

Be sure to note page #

What are the author's main points?

What are the key terms?

Important quotes
(include page #)

Analyze (right side)

How are the parts of the author's argument related to each other?

What values, assumptions, or interests seem to underlie the author's position or interpretation of the issue?

What other interpretations might be made of this evidence or issue?

What is this article really about and why did the author choose this particular approach or evidence or reason?

What are we to make of this and in what context or larger area of concern?

Where is this author or article confusing?
Where are there anomalies or ideas that seem unusual or do not seem to fit?

What do I want to bring up in class discussion?

What do I need to understand the article better, or what in the article do I need to hear classmates' reactions to?