

Learning Log

What is a Learning Log and why is it important?

A Learning Log (Pappas et al, 1990) gives students an opportunity to write about the information they are reading. Writing increases understanding of information because students reflect on and explain what they have read.

How can I use a Learning Log with my students?

After students have read a passage, tell them that they can write about anything they have learned in the Learning Logs. They can also include any questions they have about the information. Students can write a process entry to help them reflect on how they are learning. For example, students might answer one of the following process questions:

- What didn't I understand?
- What questions do I have?
- What are my predictions about a new topic?

Alternatively, students can write a reaction entry and focus on what they have learned. They would then summarize, analyze, compare/contrast, or evaluate ideas or persons they read about in the passage.

