

Gender Journals – Assignment Guidelines

Throughout the semester, you will submit 5 gender journals that demonstrate your reflections on the content learned in this course. The five journals can be turned in at any time during the semester, although you may only turn in two journals per week (e.g., you cannot wait until the final week of class to turn in all your journals). These journals will follow these general guidelines:

For each journal, choose something you have encountered that connects specifically to our course content. For example, you could discuss something from your personal experience or something you read, watched, or heard. Students in the past have written about many random and varied topics such as TV shows, going to Target, conversations with friends, being on dating apps, TikTok videos, political news, babysitting young children, readings from other courses, and so on. The idea of this assignment is to demonstrate your growing awareness of gender dynamics and to encourage you to apply what we are learning to your everyday life. The more specific you can be about the class material that relates to the subject of your journal, the better. For example, you could discuss how your topic relates to a specific psychological concept, reference a specific part of an assigned reading, or comment on some specific ideas shared during class discussion.

Journals can be written in a first-person, non-academic writing style (e.g., it's okay to use first person pronouns and reflect on your personal experiences). You do not need to cite any outside sources, unless you are directly paraphrasing or including a quotation from a reading. You do not need to include references or use APA style.

Some of the common errors that students make on gender journals include:

- Writing a detailed reflection about a personal experience, but not directly connecting it to a specific part of our course content
- Writing about something that is related to a topic from class (e.g., masculinity), but not explaining how or why it is related to class content specifically
- Writing only about what we discussed or learned in class, without relating it to something from outside of class
- Writing about 3-4 different topics in one gender journal rather than focusing and offering a detailed explanation of one in particular
- Writing a journal that is too vague or lacks detail such that you could've written it without ever taking this course or interacting with course materials

Grading

Journals should:

1. Be at least 500 words (2 pages double spaced)
2. Include a description of what you encountered/read/watched/heard
3. Connect this material to something specific we have talked about or learned about in class (this could be something from lecture, readings, or discussions)

Your journal must:

- Include all portions listed above
- Offer enough detail to demonstrate that you understood the course content
- Show thoughtfulness and personal awareness
- Be free from stylistic, grammatical, and syntax errors
- Be double spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font

18 points	Your journal met the requirements, showed understanding of the content, and demonstrated thoughtfulness and/or critical thinking.
12 points	Your journal met most of the requirements and/or showed some misunderstanding of the content or lack of thoughtfulness.
6 points	Your journal did not fulfill the requirements and/or demonstrated a misunderstanding of the content.
0 points	You did not turn in a journal.