

Group Logo
Journal Form

Name Brandon Smith

Date (For 4/4/08)

Directions: Many jobs require regular reports when a long-term job is in progress. This journal should be completed, printed and turned into the Project Manager, once a week on the agreed upon day. Every question needs to be answered as a complete sentence or paragraph. Give details for more points. Spelling and grammar count as this is a professional document.

What specific task(s) were you to complete this week?

The week of 3/31 – 4/4, I was to complete the Week 1 tasks from my project timeline. This consisted of optimizing (making more efficient) the method of data transfer used to send message board data to client programs (of the game), specifically message board topics and titles.

Did you complete it? If not, explain why

Indeed, I was able to fully complete this task. I was also able to do more than I had planned, as I added a “Refresh” function to the message board that allows users to update and see changes to the message board that they are viewing without the need to leave and re-enter it or the need to go to different topics/messages and back.

Describe the steps you took to complete this task

- Re-examined the code in the server that I used to send message board topic information to the client program, as well as the code in the client that I used to receive and sort the message board topic information from the server.
- Devised a refined and more efficient method of sending the information to the client, thinking through how to read, write, and store the data in the message.
- Thought through the functionality of this new method, and came up with solutions to a problem or two that arose because of the new method.
- Scripted the new method and solutions to the problems created by it, testing individual parts of it as I went.
- Conducted a final, thorough test to ensure optimal performance of the client program concerning the new method of message board data transfer.

Describe the skills you used (including software) you used to complete it.

I used analyzation and problem solving skills to envision the workings of the code and to foresee problems presented by the new ways that I intended to script the process, figuring out fixes to these problems as I encountered them. Needless to say, I used programming skills to then implement the final code. I used Game Maker to script and test-run the game, and Notepad to keep track of several different bits of code. I also am using Microsoft Excel to keep a table of message identifiers for online communications.

Were there any problems or work-arounds you had to create in order to complete your task? (explain).

Yes. After the first “session” of scripting and into the first test, I had many problems, such as incorrect topic names and content, an incorrect number of replies, and some topics not showing up or not being fully received. Through many changes and tests, I was able to eventually fix each of these problems.

Is there anything about your job or your role in the group that needs explanation or is a problem?

(If you have a problem with a member, remember to phrase your thought politely. Words like conflict, misunderstanding, working-through, lack of, needs to ... etc., help prevent bad feelings, but can also help get a problem resolved.)

No, there have been no problems so far.

What is the next thing you need to work on?

Implementation and programming of the inventory screen and inventory items, as well as finalization of its design. Before I will be able to begin on this work, however, I will need a background image for the inventory screen which will determine its layout. I have petitioned Jonathan to create this background for me, and he has agreed to do so; it will be done soon.

What have you noticed about your abilities to self-organize your work and being part of a team? Write down how your insight change from week to week.

It seems to me that I am well able to self-organize my work. I also think that I am doing well in communicating my needs and requests thoroughly to my teammate, and that he is telling and requesting of me what he needs to as well. (I am not sure what is meant by writing down how my "insight change" from week to week – could you clear this up for me?)

Anything else you'd like to include that is not addressed above.

Not necessarily.

**A NON-EXAMPLE
JOURNAL RESPONSE**

Name _____

Date _____

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What specific task(s) were you to complete this week?

I did what I was asked to do last week. I made a logo.

Did you complete it? If not, explain why

No. It was a lame design and I started over.

Describe the steps you took to complete this task

I just used Photoshop and then printed it.

Describe the skills you used (including software) you used to complete it.

I drew it and colored it in Photoshop.

Were there any problems or work-arounds you had to create in order to complete your task? (explain).

Nope. It was easy.

Is there anything about your job or your role in the group that needs explanation or is a problem?

(If you have a problem with a member, remember to phrase your thought politely. Words like conflict, misunderstanding, working-through, lack of, needs to ... etc., help prevent bad feelings, but can also help get a problem resolved.)

Yeah, but two of the other members are jerks and don't let me get my work done, so it's not my fault.

What is the next thing you need to work on?

I'm not sure. I think I'm supposed to work on a logo. But it's not a problem. I can do it in an hour.

What have you noticed about your abilities to self-organize your work and being part of a team? Write down how your insight change from week to week.

I'm good, I talk and stuff.

Anything else you'd like to include that is not addressed above.

Uh no. I think it's going pretty well