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The Double Entry Journal

Doreen C. Bowens

CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

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THE DOUBLE-ENTRY JOURNAL

The double-entry journal is a note-taking technique that enables you to engage more effectively with your reading and to come to class prepared to discuss the work. It will also be helpful when it comes time to write papers or study for an exam.

Technique

1. Take a sheet of regular notebook paper and fold it down the middle. Open it up again. On the top of the sheet, write your name, the course information and the author, and the title of your reading assignment. Below that, write Copied Passages on the left-hand side and Responses on the right-hand side.

If you are in an online course, type and underline Copied Passages and type and underline Responses beneath Copied Passages. Make sure you leave enough room to enter your material from the text, which will bring you to point number two below this one. It should look like the following:

1. Copied Passages

“...” (p. 1).

Responses

2. Copied Passages

“...” (p. 12).

Responses

(Please number your entries as the example above, so I can comment on them.)

2. As you read, specific passages will strike you for different reasons. They may relate to your own experiences; they may illuminate you; they may intrigue you; they may annoy you, or they may confuse you. Whatever your reaction and if you feel the passages are significant, copy them on the left-hand side of your double-entry journal. Be sure to copy the quote exactly and to include the page number (if there are no page numbers, use paragraph numbers, i.e. (para. 4) that way, you will have the reference if needed later. Write your comments, ideas, or questions about the quote on the right-hand side.

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In an online course, copy the quote exactly and include the page number (if there are no page numbers, use paragraph numbers, i.e. (para. 4) that way, you will have the reference if needed later.

Here is an example of a journal entry form Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*:

Copied Passages	Responses
<p>Chapter 1, p. 1</p> <p>Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board. For some they come in with the tide. For others they sail forever on the horizon, never out of sight, never landing until the Watcher turns his eyes away in resignation, his dreams mocked to death by Time. That is the life of men.</p>	<p>This opening is a little confusing, but it seems poetic. I think the author means that people have dreams that don't always come true. But I'm not sure who the Watcher is or why the author says this is how <i>men's</i> lives are.</p>

In an online course, it would look like the following:

1. Copied Passages

Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board. For some they come with the tide. For others they sail forever on the horizon, never out of sight, never landing until the Watcher turns his eyes away in resignation, his dreams mocked to death by Time. That is the life of men (1).

Responses

This opening is a little confusing, but it seems poetic. I think the author means that people have dreams that don't always come true. But I'm not sure who the Watcher is or why the author says this is how *men's* lives are.

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Evaluation and Grading

You will get full credit for all double-entry assignments and receive either 100 percent or 65 percent, depending on how thorough and thoughtful your journals are. They will not be graded for correctness. Double-entry journal assignments will not be accepted late because they show you are ready for class discussion. (If they are late, I will take the DEJ but give it 80 percent for a week after the deadline and 65 percent if it is later than two weeks. An overall grade will be assigned for your double-entry journals at the end of the semester based on the percentage of satisfactory assignments you handed in on time. You should respond to at least six quotes for articles or chapters and 12 passages for full-length works such as a book/novel. Make sure you select excerpts from the work and not just from the first few pages. For instance, if the assignment is to create a Double Entry Journal for pages ranging from 45-89, please ensure you select quotes from that page range, not just from pages 45-55. If so, you will receive 75 percent. If in an in-person class, your journal entries should be legible and need not be typed.

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