

## How to Write a Learning Summary

A learning summary is a way for you to express clearly what you have learned about the concepts in the current contract. It should be a personal expression, unique to yourself. That means you should use only *your own words* and diagrams, in language that you might use to explain things to a friend.

In addition to writing about what you learned, you should write about how and where you learned it. For example, don't just state that a ball thrown sideways and a ball dropped from the same height will hit the ground at the same time - instead, write about the Two Marbles activity that you did, or the demonstration that I did in the front of the room. Write about your reaction to hearing the marbles strike the ground at the same time, and why you perhaps weren't expecting that result. In other words, make it personal. It's not about the content, it's about what *you* learned.

Technical issues: Your learning summary should be double spaced and word processed, with a standard English department styled header in the upper right hand corner and a title. You should proof read your work carefully before it is turned in. It should include diagrams, and occasionally equations, which can be hand drawn and written. Equations should include an example problem to show that you understand how they are used, and what units are used, etc. The length of each learning summary will vary, but it should be long enough to express what you have learned in detail. In general, the learning summaries are due on the day of the test, but turning them in early would allow me to give you some feedback before taking the test.

Depending on the timing, and how proficient a writer you are, you should have a peer editor review your work. This review should really focus on the question of whether you have clearly shown your understanding of the concepts, although some grammatical editing might also be called for. Once you get your summary back with the editor's comments, you should revise it, evaluate it, and turn in both the original and revised copy.

The evaluation of learning summaries is similar to that of the contracts. You should evaluate your work yourself, and a peer should also read and evaluate it. The "self" and "peer" letter grades that you write down should agree before you turn it in.