

BENNINGTON

FIELD WORK TERM

BLOG GUIDELINES - *This option is available to all students except FWT Memorial Grant and Public Action Grant recipients.*

This option is not available for FWT Summer Makeup.

Purpose

Ongoing reflection throughout a new adventure can give deeper insights when approaching a summary review at the end of an experience. Write and/or record a reflective online blog during FWT to keep the Bennington community updated on your winter term undertakings. This option is intended to document your thoughtful, ongoing inquiry and reflection in real-time and should show a more conscious process than a simple documentation of your day-to-day tasks.

Process

With a 200 word written entry due weekly—you choose the day—and a 600 word summative final post, this option lets you track your development and process over the course of FWT.

Before you begin, think about what the focus of your blog will be. What themes will you regularly examine?

When selecting a blog template, be sure it can issue a unique URL for every post you generate. We recommend using [Wordpress](#) (e.g. [Bennington Sustainable Food Project](#)) or [Tumblr](#) (E.g. [Tapped In](#)) to create and host your blog as they are free, flexible, and generate unique URLs per post. **Additionally, the blog theme must display the date each blog post is published.** As this is a project with a real-time weekly component, students wishing to complete blogs as their FWT reflective work must submit their intention *and live url* to the FWT Office (fwt@bennington.edu) **by Tuesday, January 2, 2018.**

In your weekly blog posts we encourage you to focus your reflection around *one* experience, interaction, event or project that was particularly compelling to you. The structure of your weekly post should briefly summarize the subject of your discussion, followed by reflection. Your reflection might answer some of the following questions:

- What did you learn about yourself and/or the world of work as a result of this experience?
- What was particularly challenging about this situation?
- What new areas of strength have you identified or developed? What do you see for areas of improvement?
- What questions are arising as a result of this interaction?
- How are you thinking about your work at Bennington in new and different ways as a result of this experience?
- Was this situation/event/experience in alignment with your goals and values? Why or why not?
- What have you learned about the kind of environment you want to work in?
- Did this experience require you to take a risk? If so, how did you respond and what did you learn about yourself.

For your **summative post**, reflect back upon the *whole* of your FWT experience and revisit any of the themes that emerged during your weekly posts. Final questions to consider as you prepare your reflection could include:

- What have you learned about who you are in relationship to work? To the world?
- What is something that you learned about yourself that you might not have otherwise?
- How did you grow over FWT?
- What did you learn about areas in which you might want to work and/or the kind of place you want to work at in the future?
- What were high points of your FWT? Why?
- What were low points? Did you learn anything about what you might do differently to avoid these "lows" in

the future?

- How is your experience informed by your studies at Bennington or influencing your future work?
- For those who've completed a prior FWT, how does a weekly reflection differ from an end-of-FWT reflective essay?
- Could you imagine integrating a regular blog practice during the academic term? How would it be different?

Blog links may be posted on the [FWT Facebook](#) page and available online, thus consider the implications of a social media platform. Keep personnel, client, and organizational issues confidential and be respectful of your employer. As a reflective blog, avoid airing the dirty laundry of your site but rather focus on chronicling your growth and insights as they progress over FWT.

Due Date and How to Submit

In addition to sending the FWT Office your URL by January 3, and making a weekly posting over FWT, **students must submit their 600 word summative final post by February 23, 2018.**

This option is not available for FWT Summer Makeup.

Site Evaluations

Completing a site evaluation allows you to share your thoughts with other students and the FWT Office on topics such as supervision, quality of work, and value of the experience. Please take a few moments to complete a site evaluation for your 2018 FWT. Log in to [WorkLink](#), click on "Your FWT: Register and view your FWT Records." Click on "Site Evaluation" next to your current FWT Site (just above "Submit Reflective Project").