**Learning Journal**

The Learning Journal is a tool for self-reflection on the learning process. In addition to completing directed tasks, you should use the Learning Journal to document your activities, record problems you may have encountered and to draft answers for Discussion Forums and Assignments. The Learning Journal should be updated regularly (on a weekly basis), as the learning journals will be assessed by your instructor as part of your Final Grade. Your learning journal entry must be a reflective statement that considers the following questions:

1. Describe what you did. This does not mean that you copy and paste from what you have posted or the assignments you have prepared. You need to describe what you did and how you did it.
2. Describe your reactions to what you did
3. Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had. Discuss how they were helpful
4. Describe your feelings and attitudes
5. Describe what you learned

Another set of questions to consider in your learning journal statement include:

1. What surprised me or caused me to wonder?
2. What happened that felt particularly challenging? Why was it challenging to me?
3. What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?
4. What am I realizing about myself as a learner?
5. In what ways am I able to apply the ideas and concepts gained to my own experience?

Finally, describe one important thing that you are thinking about in relation to the activity.

Your Learning Journal should be a minimum of 500 words.

**As I went through this week’s assignment, I came multiple times across operations which I realize I have carried out before in interacting with databases, albeit they were automated or simplified by software. For example, I use a data analysis program called Tableau, which offers some very useful features for combining two excel or other database files. When you click to add the file, you can for example specify the paramter to ‘match’ or join by. I realize now this is similar to a primary and foreign key concept. You can also specify what happens to values where there isn’t a match, whether they become null, whether one database or the other retains its original set (or domain) or whether all non matching are removed (this would be coined an intersection of sorts, I suppose).**

**In fact now after reading through all of the chapter, I see this is in fact called a join, and the difference here is that we are concatenating the attributes to each other by a specific attribute, rather than combining them in some way. So a union or an intersection will have the same number of attributes, and potentially more or less tuples, whereas with a join the intention would be to have the same number of tuples, but more attributes (however in reality depending on the data match and type of join you may have some extra potential tuples with incomplete data).**

**I think this is an important distinction that I am beginning to understand here.**