**A guide for writing a “reflective journal:”**

**Who will read the journal?**

The contents of your journal will be only visible to the instructor.  Unlike discussion forums or blogs, the journal is an area for reflection without a wide audience.

**Why do it?**

Maintaining a journal serves several purposes:

1. A means of communication, conversation (e.g., between material and yourself, yourself and instructors).

2. Provides regular feedback between you and the instructors and helps to match expectations.

3. Platform for synthesis of knowledge and ideas

4. Help develop critical thinking

5. Helps to elicit topics of interest, challenging topics that need improvement, etc.

**What to write?**

First write a brief summary of the contents of a lecture, lab activity, group discussion or reading material. Then reflect upon these activities. Record your own thoughts, ideas, responses and reactions to any of the above activities. Make notes about concepts, questions you have, and any confusion that may arise. Use the journal to explore possible solutions to problems being raised in class or alternative activities to the ones presented in class. Record new insights and problem solving strategies realized during discussions with fellow students and instructors. The journal reflects your own thoughts and ideas. Be as original and critical (constructive) as you can.

Some additional ideas:

Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had.

Discuss how they were helpful Describe your feelings and attitudes What surprised me or caused me to wonder?

What happened that felt particularly challenging? Why was it challenging to me?

What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?

What am I realizing about myself as a learner?

In what ways am I able to apply the ideas and concepts gained to my own experience?

**What not to do:**

Do not copy and paste any material from the discussion forum, your own assignment, or any other source.  The entries in the journal must be your own words.

**When do I use the journal?**

You are expected to use the journal for each week of the course.

**How will it be graded?**

Each weekly journal must be at least 500 words long.  Please use proper grammar and keep your writing on the class topic.  Deductions from a full credit on this assignment would be taken if you copy and paste content.  As long as you write down your own reflection about the learning activities, deductions will not be taken.  You will receive a single grade for each week and the grades will count toward your final grade in the course.

Through this week’s learning, there are a few important takes away. I learned the layers behind e-commerce. There are layers of the communication protocol of TCP/IP which transports the data.

The IP performs the routing and addressing. The DNS server converts the domain name into an IP address.

The layers are as below:  
Commerce application

Business service

Electronic publishing infrastructure

Message distribution infrastructure

National information infrastructure

Their respective implementation can follow the below path.

Telephone network, Internet, and computer networks.

HTTP, Email, and EDI are messaging infrastructure

URL and HTML are publishing infra

Encryption and payment fund transfer are the essentials of business services.

The last layer is the actual e-commerce website that performs the services.

One example is using the below schema to display the layers

Application: an online bookstore

Business service: encryption

Publishing: HTML

Message distribution: HTTP

National infra: Internet.

I also gained some exposure to commerce topologies that the there are internet, intranet, and extranet.

The extranet is for networking between business partnerships although in most cases the internet can serve the same purpose but in terms of segregation.

I also learned some network organizations that use firewalls and internal servers to protect the user’s computer including hiding the actual servers behind the gateway servers.

After done the reading, I started to work on the written assignment of creating an e-commerce website.

It’s surprising to me that it's so simple to create a website with my partially defined domain name at no cost.

The operations are quite handy and easy to use for a small business. I would guess the only challenge is the use of a payment system if I am going to operate an online business.

It's easy to introduce the catalogs and descriptions for the website.

During the learning, I gained some exposure to SSL and TLS.

The TLS is an updated and more secure version of SSL. HTTPS appears in the URL when the website is secured by an SSL/TLS certificate. Users can view the details of the certificate.

The SSL is more likely to complete a purchase as the users know that it's secured.

SSL can also improve Search engine optimization.

The SSL works in such a way that establishes the encrypted connection between a website。

For every new session, an HTTPS request is changed the validate the SSL certificate with the server. The server shares its public key with the browser. It creates and encrypts a pre-master key. This is called the key exchange.

The server can decrypt the pre-master key with its private key,

Establishing a secure, encrypted connection used during the session.

A certificate signing request CSR contains a public key and requestor name.

Certificate authority issues and renew the certificate. The CA publicizes its public key to attest to its validity.

The common name for SSL is the DNS hostname of the site to be secured.

Domain validation SSL is a more basic SSL certificate that only Domain name ownership is validated.

Extended validation of SSL is more strict validation with the company and organization.

The key exchange server and user establish a secret for the session.

Wild card SSL is used to secure multiple subdomains.

Overall, I gain more confidence towards the hosting of e-commer website.