This week, I am trying a different approach to the learning journal. Rather than write in essay format, I will attempt to answer each question individually.

**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.**

This week, I read the learning guide, posted to the discussion, responded to my peers' discussion posts, submitted my written assignment, assessed my peers' assignments, and took the graded exam. In order to create my discussion post, I found the original article presenting the 4+1 view model of architecture. In order to create my written assignment, especially the diagrams, I used the internet to find examples of process view and concept view diagrams.

**2. Describe your reactions to what you did**

I felt good about my discussion post. I feel that having found the original article was helpful in understanding the 4+1 view model of architecture. I definitely had more to write about for the discussion than if I had only stuck to the material from the slides, which would have amounted to one slide on the topic.

I was glad to have found some examples of process view and concept view diagrams on the internet. Unfortunately, there were not consistent in format. Since there were no examples in the reading material, it is hard to tell which format is more appropriate.

**3. Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had. Discuss how they were helpful**

The most helpful feedback I received this week came from the instructor who said that my diagrams were not visible in the written assignment. It would have been a shame for peers to be able to see them after all of the time and effort that went into creating them. (Thank you!!)

**4. Describe your feelings and attitudes**

To be honest, I have been very agitated about the level of detail (or lack thereof) in the slides. The slide deck is meant to accompany a full textbook, where no-doubt there would be more detail. Unfortunately, test banks provided by publishers are often based on the full text of the book, not the summary slides alone. This is something that has come up in previous classes. I hope that the school can improve this situation by using more open-source books and materials over slides from books under copyrite.

**5. Describe what you learned**

I learned about the 4 different architectural views. I also learned that these views are necessarily in competition and that scenarios are helpful in visualizing the integration of each of the 4 views. Another set of questions to consider in your learning journal statement include:

**1. What surprised me or caused me to wonder?**

There were different ways to diagram the various views that I found online. I realize that there are some standards, but that experience and creativity will affect what the diagram will look like. With this in mind, I wonder if there is any reasonable way to grade the diagrams we create. We will see in next week’s rubric.

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

I have already alluded to the fact that creating the view diagrams without ready examples from the book was a challenge. Even after I found some examples elsewhere, there is no telling whether the example I found are “good”.

Another challenge is trying to retain information from the slide deck. Book chapters are often written with enough detail that retaining main ideas from sub-sections is easier. Without this level of detail, I find retention of the material difficult.

**3. What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?**

I would say that the most valuable skill that is being exercised in this course is outside research. I am getting better at finding online material to supplement the slides.

**4. What am I realizing about myself as a learner?**

Perhaps I am too accustomed to learning in a real classroom environment, with real textbooks, to perform well in this environment. Nonetheless, I am pushing forward.

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

At the moment, there is nothing in the course that I can apply to my daily activities. The knowledge I am gaining here is only academic. Perhaps, someday I will work in the field and apply this knowledge then. Meanwhile, I am just happy to be learning.

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

One activity I found particularly disheartening was the graded exam. My performance was terrible even though I studied the self-quizzes thoroughly, read through all of the course materials several times and worked hard on all of the assignments, including finding outside material. Considering over half of the grade comes from the tests, I gave serious consideration to withdrawing from the course. I have decided to stick with the course and hope I don’t regret it in the future. We’ll see.