**JOURNAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Journal entries are required for the following experiences:

Court observation

In-depth interview with fieldwork attorney

First observation with fieldwork attorney

Second observation with fieldwork attorney

First meeting with your domestic violence client

At conclusion of your domestic violence case

Each class where we either plan for or debrief a domestic violence case (not necessarily your own) – at present we expect to hold these classes on 2/7, 2/16 and 2/23

Each journal entry should be at least the equivalent of approximately one double-spaced, typed page in length, but feel free to write more if the spirit moves you. Post your journal entry as a document (e.g. a document in MS Word) in the documents folder of your Journal-Name matter in Clio. Entries should be posted by 10pm of the third business day following the day of the experience: e.g. by 10 pm Friday for a previous Tuesday court hearing or 10pm Tuesday for a previous Thursday class -- but we encourage you to write your entries sooner while the event is fresh in your mind. Use the following format for the file name: Name-Journal-Date: for example Croom-Journal-27Jan2017.docx

Each journal entry is worth 3 points toward your portfolio grade.

We may repost in your Journal matter the journal entry with our own comments and you are welcome to continue the dialogue by then reposting the entry again with your responses and further thoughts. Email us if you do repost. Your journal entries are confidential. Occasionally, we may ask your permission to refer to a journal entry in class or to put together something written by you with journal entries from several students as a compilation for our class discussions. In either instance, we will seek your permission in advance by email, and you have the absolute authority to decline.

In addition to the guidance and grading rubric you read in Nicolson, [Guidance on Writing Journal Entries](https://lawschool.westlaw.com/DocForums/ViewSingleDocument.aspx?postingID=13257780&courseID=231423&forumDBID=1045784), we offer the following suggestions for you to consider in writing your journal entries. These are just ideas to get you thinking; you are not required to answer any of these questions in particular in writing your journal entries.

Some possible topics for journal entries (adapted from Timothy W. Floyd & Kendall L. Kerew, Moving the Needle from Law Student to Lawyer: Using Field Placement Courses to Cultivate Professional Identity and Purpose, to appear in the Mercer Law Review):

Discuss what you are learning about ***how*** to learn from experience. How do you learn best? What facilitates your learning? What inhibits your learning?

How does what you are learning in this experience fit into your future plans?

Critique your own performance in relation to this experience. Discuss your planning and execution of your part of this experience. What was good, what needs improvement, and what would you do differently?

Discuss whether and how your perceptions about the practice of law have changed as a result of this experience.

What personal strengths and weaknesses have you discovered during this experience?

Discuss creative problem solving you have engaged in or observed in relation to this experience.

What is the relationship between the values learned in relation to this experience and the values have you learned in the rest of law school?  How, if at all, are any of these values different from those with which you came to law school?

Does this experience give you insight on how you can be the person you truly are at your deepest levels (or the person you truly want to be) and also be a good lawyer?

Domestic violence cases involve traumatic events and tough life situations. How has your exposure to your client’s life experiences and challenges affected you?