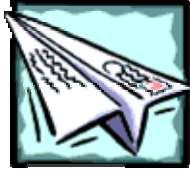


Keeping a Travel
Spring, 2008



Journal • "Plus3" •

Travel Journal Writing Tip #1:

WRITE!!

Your instructions say, "The journal should be updated daily"; there is no substitute for doing this. So: WRITE!! EVERY DAY!! NO EXCUSES!!

Travel Journal Writing tip #2:

DETAILS!!

You won't remember. You won't remember what you first thought when you arrived at the airport, building, city, business, bridge. You won't remember exactly how interesting, great, strange you found the site you visited on Wednesday. You won't remember the corners of the skyscraper or the buttresses of the opera house or the name of the lecturer or the organization of the research offices. You won't remember the contact information for the internship director or the address of that person you met at lunch who said, "You'll write?" or "send me an e-mail about your internship," and you said, "Yes."

Your journal is where you record details that you won't remember and that will be of great value to you personally, academically and professionally throughout your trip and when you return. You will write a much better paper upon return if you have details to help you recall important realizations and insights. You'll be better able to recall the many kinds of things you saw, heard, tasted, smelled, felt, tried to understand better, tried to find more of, tried to ignore, if you write down the specific, concrete, descriptive details. You'll start seeing, hearing, feeling, understanding with more acuity and awareness if you're in the habit of noticing details because you are writing details.

Travel Journal Writing Tip #3

KEEP YOUR JOURNAL WITH YOU!!

Carry your journal (or a mini version of your journal) with you all the time. Have access to your journal on the plane, on the bus, in the taxi, on the tour, on the town. Take your journal with you to every business/engineering site visit. Take your journal with you when you're wandering around. Quick, DETAILED observations made "on-the-run" can be part of your daily journal-writing, as can writing on the bus as you travel from place to place, as can writing at a café or restaurant table while everyone around you speaks a language you don't understand.

If you can pull your journal out of your pocket or purse or backpack on a moment's notice, you can immediately write about a striking insight; a new impression; that thing that you found so weird; that technically amazing achievement; that artistically astounding creation. You can sketch the buildings, sites and people you see. You can record exactly what someone said. You can write down place names, people's names and contact information. You can jot down words you want to look up; you can describe (IN DETAIL!) the color of sand, the texture of marble, the arrangement of brick, the set-up

of a classroom, the temperature of water, the speed of a car, the title of the physics textbook, the food the students were eating, the angle of rocks. You can make lists; you can use your journal for reminders: if you forget to bring extra batteries for your camera, then you won't be able to take the pictures that will help you remind yourself of something you wanted to write about for your Plus 3 paper.

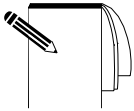
Subtip of #3

STUFF THINGS IN YOUR JOURNAL!!

"Things," here, means little things you want to keep; bits and pieces that will help you remember where you've been, what you did, what you felt, what you discovered. Stuff in ticket stubs; receipts; postcards; napkins & coasters; hotel soap wrappers; business cards; little mementos that will help keep your thoughts going and your memories strong.



I can't think of anything to write!!



Complete a sentence (and keep going) (and write down the DETAILS!)

Today I am so. . .

Yesterday I wasn't sure. . .

What I learned is. . . .

It's more important than it might sound because. . .

I admit. . .

In 2012, when I'm sitting in my office, I want to remember. . .

When someone asks me, "So, what did you learn about engineering on your trip?" I'll say, ""

The firm's site was so different. . . .

When we arrived at the site, the first thing I noticed . . .

If I could go back to yesterday, I would. . .

If I could go back to that site, I would. . .

From what I saw today, I think working at company X would be. . .

The first thing the guide said was. . .

When she pointed out _____, my first impression was. . .

I think the idea he (she) wanted to get across was. . .

Someday, I'll say to one of my co-workers, "when I was in China. . ."

If I had to explain why American students do _____, I'd say. . .

Students here seem to have. . .

The engineers who designed that must have . . .

I expected to see more. . .

I was really surprised to see. . .

The best part of today was. . .

When they ask me about China, the first thing I'll say is. . .

If I had to start my paper right now, my 1st sentence would be. . .

When someone asks me, "So, what did you learn about engineering on your trip?" I'll say, ""

It's impossible to believe that. . .
So far, the single most interesting half hour has been. . .
I will never, ever forget. . .
I never, ever knew. . .

At any moment during your trip, write down the things that you're saying in your head right at that moment: (I'm so tired. What was that thing I ate an hour ago? I'm so happy! Why did they build it that way? That carving around that doorway is so beautiful. What is it I'm not seeing? Do they really take 3 hours off in the afternoon? Why was that person rude? Did I just think that person was rude? I can't wait to leave for home. I wish I were staying 3 more weeks. I wonder what a particular person is doing right now. Students have it so easy, here. Students, here, work much harder on. . . . I have too much stuff to write for one paper when I get back. Can you buy American cheese here? Should I be fluent in Chinese? Should Americans be fluent in Chinese? I won't have anything to write in my paper when I get back. Why are there so many people? Where is everybody? Why am I afraid to speak in Chinese? I could go here for graduate school. Why do I love speaking Chinese? Should I buy that shirt? Do they miss me?). **For 15 minutes, right then, or later that day, write more about what you were saying to yourself. Record, in writing, your ongoing conversations with yourself. What are your extensions of or responses to your own in-your-head statements teaching you about what it means to travel and to experience the environment and culture of another country?**

"What was I saying?"

The other person's journal



One of the people you met today is writing in his or her journal about meeting you, the engineering student from the University of Pittsburgh. **Here's what he or she writes. . .**