

1. **Never leave anything to memory!**
2. **Your writing should be legible!**
3. **Someone should be able to pick up your book and easily retrace your steps!**
4. **Be as specific as possible, Beauty is in the details!**
5. **Your interpretations/conclusions MUST include references to our course readings, discussions, and your personal thoughts IN ADDITION to your specific observations**
6. **Everyone's journal entries WILL BE different – The scavenger hunt questions should be incorporated into your observations and interpretations, but I do NOT want you to answer them as you typically would on a short answer test. Everyone has different backgrounds, different interests, and will observe the sites differently – SO everyone's journals should be specific to you!**
7. **You will be graded on:**
  - A. **How well you have organized your journal (20%)**
  - B. **The quality and 'depth' of your observations (35%)**
  - C. **How well you incorporate our course readings and discussions into your interpretations/conclusions (35%)**

### **Equipment**

1. Rite-in-the-Rain Journal
  - Desirable characteristics
    - a. Size – small enough to fit into a large pocket
    - b. Durability – Strong enough to withstand an EF-5 tornado
      - Strong binding, paper
      - Hardcover
      - Ideally waterproof
    - c. Numbered pages (You may do this by hand)
2. Pencils – Good affordable option, can be sharpened with a knife, teeth, or rubbing on a rock outcrop. A hard lead (2.5 to 3) works well smudges less.  
NOTE- Never erase anything in a field or lab book, just draw a single line through a prospective error. You should always have 2 or 3 pencils with you at all times.

NEVER USE – A felt tip, gel, glitter, or other novelty pen in the field or lab. The ink often smears or disappears especially when wet.

### **Organization**

1. Cover – Should include;
  - a. Your name
  - b. AffiliationDecorate the outside however you wish... Be creative...
2. Inside cover – Contact information
  - a. Phone number
  - b. E-mail
  - c. Address
  - d. Project
3. Table of contents - Guide to specific projects and page numbers

#### 4. Individual projects (In proper order)

\*HINT – Make sure to leave two or three pages at the end of each individual project, just in case you want to add more information...

##### 1<sup>st</sup> (at the top) –

- a. Date : E.g. 14 JAN 08
- b. Time: Use a 24 clock 09:30 instead of 9:30 am  
18:45 instead of 6:45 pm
- c. Weather: Brief description especially if working in the field  
E.g. Sun 28°C, pt. cloudy
- d. Partners: People with you in the field or your lab group

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Brief project description –

- a. Location
- b. Project objectives

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Observations -

This is the bread and butter of your work (try to be as specific as possible)

- Notes: The text of what you are observing and not observing (Be objective, precise, and accurate)
- Sampling ID: Where did the sample come from? Amount taken? The Sample ID?
- Photograph/Video: Where they taken? Where? Purpose? Digital ID? Brief sketch.
- Sketches/Maps
- Data tables

##### 4<sup>th</sup> Summary/Interpretations

Time to reflect upon your observations and objectives –

Were the objectives satisfied?

Is further research needed on this site/project?

Interpretations -

- Do the observations agree with what you know? Details...
- What do YOU think caused what you saw to happen?

Would you do anything differently the next time you make the observations

- Different time
- Different equipment
- Altered or additional objectives?

##### 5<sup>th</sup> Table of contents, Key, Contacts

1. Record the project title and its page numbers in the table of contents.
2. Leave a page or two at the end of the project incase you think of something later you would like to add.
3. Develop a Key at the end of the journal (about 5 pages) that will serve as a information source for any symbols, short hand/abbreviations that you might have used during your observations.
4. Develop a contact guide at the end of your field book (3 to 5 pages). You often meet people in the field/lab (landowners, scientists, partners...) that may need to be contacted.