



ANALYTICAL PAPER

The overall question that you are answering in this paper is “SO WHAT?”

Why is your internship important? Who does it affect? How did your experience connect to your academic work? How did you grow intellectually and/or personally? Since your internship was a highly individual experience, your paper will also be unique, addressing the specific topics and questions that concern **you**.

This is also an important means by which your faculty sponsor will evaluate your academic performance. Your paper should include only a brief summary of your daily internship duties, with the rest being analysis of the experience. Be sure to thoroughly examine your journal for insights, connections, changes, small incidents that highlight larger issues, and common threads. The more analytical of a journal you kept, the easier this paper should be to write.

Make sure to proofread and spellcheck!

Potential prompts to address in your paper:

- Your original goals/expectations and how they were or were not met
- What you expected to learn vs. what actually was learned or not learned
- How information was obtained at your internship
- What problems were/were not encountered such as:
 - Controversy or questions revealed by the research or the experience
 - Biases of the agency, yourself, the university, the community
- How the internship connects to your academic past and future
- How your academic training prepared you for your internship, if at all
- How the academic literature compares to the reality of your internship
- Whether your attitude, perspective, or ability changed, and how
- Ways you would change the way your agency works
- Whether you see a future for yourself in this area, and why or why not
- Questions still unresolved, things you would have done differently

Note: The questions change. They do not have immediate answers, they grow and mature, like a fine wine or a winter artichoke flower, But, there must be questions.

SAMPLE OUTLINE OF ANALYTICAL PAPER

I. Brief description of internship

- Responsibilities and daily schedule
- Skills learned
- Project description
- Problems encountered
- Your expectations/goals: how and why they were or were not met

II. Analysis of internship in terms of two or more of the following:

- Agency organizational structure critique, analysis of information channels, power structure
- Comparative analysis with similar project
- Critique of methodology/program design
- Analysis of the field (i.e.: planning, IPM, outdoor ed) and how project contributed to the field
- What you learned, changes you experienced
- Ethical considerations/issues

III. Relationship of internship or project to academic literature

- Set your experiences in the field in the context of at least 2 academic journal articles
- and/or: Relate your work to a specific theory you have learned in the classroom

IV. How internship is related to academic work

- Academic preparation
 - How prior academic experience related to field experience
 - Adequacy of academic preparation
- Future Plans
 - For your coursework
 - For your career

V. Conclusion

Still feeling unsure?

Feel free to stop by the Internship Office with any questions or to look at sample papers. Reach out to your faculty sponsor for guidance. Relax and remember: write about whatever is important to **you!**

PAGE LENGTH REQUIREMENTS:

2 unit: 4-6 pages double spaced

5 unit: 7-10 pages double spaced