

**Experience Journal Template**Student Name: John Smith

---

**Instructions**

1. Please select a Journal topic from the website to which you have relevant knowledge and experience gained to sufficiently respond to each component of Kolb's model for each subtopic.
2. Each section of Kolb's model should be a minimum of 150 words.
3. Students are required to include a biography of at least 500 words describing themselves and their personal and professional experience.
4. Be sure to include your journal supporting documentation that validates your personal/professional experience with the journal topic you are writing.
5. Once the Journal and biography is completed please log into your student website and submit your Journal to PLA

**Autobiography (500 words minimum)**

My name is John Smith. I grew up with five brothers and five sisters and I was second from the youngest. I started working odd jobs with my father and with friends when I became a teenager. I worked as a farmhand, a construction worker, a landscaper, and even an inspector for indoor sprinkler systems. Through these jobs I learned the meaning of work ethic and the need for manual labor in today's society. This experience has allowed me to understand other's experiences from a more worldly perspective and has also allowed me to relate more effectively with others. Throughout my teenage years I would go with my father to purchase and sell items such as livestock, appliances, vehicles, and old farm equipment. I would observe the way he handled himself and overtime I learned the art of negotiation and the value of a dollar from a more adult point of view. I moved to Arizona in 2003. It did not take long for me to find my way.

Within 5 months I was the top sales person at my new job and I made a lot of new friends. I learned how to manage my money more effectively and also learned about corporate America. I was able to use my 10 step sales process that I developed over time. This method proved to be a success and after only five months on the floor I was promoted to a manager position. My sales process was approved by training and over my nine year tenure with the company I have trained new employees, managers, and even entire locations. I have worked on multiple specialty projects, I love what I do and who I work for. My manager role has taught me a lot. I have learned how to coach to budgets, goals, and personal goals. I have learned that my role is to motivate and encourage my team to excel even if they do not want to do so on their own. Not everyone is motivated to help their company grow so I am there to hold them accountable to themselves and their employer. I put my education on hold for many years while I pursued a career and focused on my personal life.

I decided in 2010 that I would restart my path toward my Bachelor's degree and began classes at University of Phoenix full time. It was a struggle to balance life and school at first, but I gained momentum near the end of 2010. My goal is to be finished with my degree by December of 2013. This is why I am writing these essays. I have a lot of life experiences and believe that they have made me a better person and a stronger leader at work. On a personal level, my wife and I met in 2004 and started dating in 2006. We had our first child in April of 2010, and our son was born in 2012. I enjoy my family more than anything else in my life. Parenting is challenging but very rewarding. It can sometimes be difficult to be a nurturing available parent when there are so many other things on my plate, but I know how important my time and structure is for them. I believe that I have successfully found a balance between career and family and I enjoy both aspects of my life.