

Daily Journals

The beginning of each class period will be spent writing a Daily Journal entry in your spiral notebook, which is kept in the proper section of your binder at all times. The daily topic will be on the board, overhead, or monitor each day when you enter the room. You'll be given the first five minutes of class to respond to the daily journal topic. The topic might be a quote, a word, or a subject. Your job is to analyze the assigned topic in a one-paragraph response. If the topic is a quote, you might agree with it and explain why you agree with it; or, you might choose to disagree with the quote and explain why you disagree. If the topic is a word or a subject, you must create a thesis/topic sentence out of it and respond to the thesis/topic sentence you created. For example, if the topic is "School," you might create a topic sentence for your paragraph, which states: "School is challenging." You would then explain why/how school is challenging. *The topic MUST be used in your topic sentence!* Your responses will be used throughout the semester for various class assignments, one of which will be sharing with the class, so write only what you are comfortable sharing with the entire class.

Specific Journal Guidelines

1. Number, Title, and Date each entry properly (see example on back of this sheet).
2. Title the entry with the EXACT given topic; do not come up with your own title and *do not change capitalization in topic*.
3. Number and title should be flush with the left red notebook line, as shown in class.
4. Underline title (do not underline number).
5. Your entry must consist of one complete paragraph (at least five sentences).
6. Write no more than one paragraph on the given topic. (150 words maximum)
7. Indent paragraph correctly (1/2 inch).
8. Entries may be written in 1st or 3rd person.
9. Follow ALL FORMAL WRITING RULES, except 1st person, which may be used.
10. You may write on the back of your paper if you need to.
(Make sure you're using proper ink to avoid "bleeding through" to the other side!)
11. If you are absent or tardy, it is your responsibility to obtain the Journal topic from the day you were absent/tardy from a classmate or from the Student Log and to complete that Journal entry on your own time.
12. Double space your entries.
13. Do not use more than one sheet of paper per entry.
14. WRITE LEGIBLY! If handwriting is illegible, you will receive a zero for the entry.
15. You will not be graded on spelling, but you should strive to eliminate spelling errors from your writing. You are welcome to use a dictionary during Journal time.
16. You will be evaluated on sentence structure, paragraph structure, and grammar. You are welcome to refer to the class set of Writer's Inc. if needed.
17. After you have completed an entry, skip a line, then write and "box" the total sentence count, a dash, then the total word count (see example on back of this sheet).
18. Keep Journal notebook "clean". Do not doodle, write, or draw on any part of the Journal notebook. Make sure your name, period, and year/semester are clearly written in black ink on the left corner of the *inside front cover* of Journal notebook, as shown in class.
19. Journals are utilized and graded cumulatively. *Do not lose your journals!*
20. This sheet must be kept in the Class Information section of your notebook at all times.
21. No White Out or scribbling words out! If you need to correct something, put one line through it (with same pen) and correct the error above it.
22. Maintain a one inch margin on all sides (*Yes, even at the bottom!*).
23. Journals will be evaluated/graded by your peers, so make sure you share only what you are comfortable sharing with everyone.
24. **NOTE: Due to the sharing of Journals, students must avoid sharing their political views, their religious views, or other comments that could be offensive to others.**