

Why Should I Keep a Journal?

If you are one of my students, the answer is easy! *It is a required, graded assignment.* Even more, though, the regular writing practice that journaling entails can help you get all of those great stories, opinions, details, and images from your head onto the paper. Daily writing practice can and will help ease the transfer of ideas between your brain and the paper. Think of your journal as prewriting; the ideas you generate through journaling can flower into essays, short stories, poems, and even blog entries.

In this class, your journals will consist of a number of entries **graded weekly**.

Although I will give you topics, what you write in your journal concerning that topic is your decision – as long as it is appropriately written. You will not have to focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar, or mechanics; nor will you be graded on complete neatness. ***Unless otherwise specified in the Journal Assignment itself!*** ☺

Sometimes I will read your journals thoroughly; other times, I will simply give you a grade based on having followed the guidelines. Please do not include any personal information you do not want to share and keep in mind that journaling should **ALWAYS** be **YOUR** writing, not anyone else's. Plagiarism will be handled with disciplinary action.

Journaling Guidelines:

The guidelines below should be followed by **ALL** students completing journals.

1. **ONLY & ALWAYS** write entries inside your composition notebook. (aka journal)
2. Write in whatever color or pencil you would like. EXCEPT yellow and orange. I can't see those colors. ☺
3. Write your name, the date, and the topic at the top of **EVERY** entry in your journal.
4. Write for a **SOLID 10 minutes** at a time without stopping on the topic given unless otherwise stated in the topic.
5. All entries **MUST** be thoroughly written with no "text-writing" or symbols.
6. There are **NO** make-up journals. (absent/missing days =0 pts.)
7. When given a writing topic, the following holds true unless otherwise stated in the directions: *a **FULL** page of writing= full credit. *Laziness in your writing will be evident in the grade achieved for that day.*
8. There will be deductions for lack of adhering to the guidelines set forth.
9. Turn in the required number of entries each week.

Respond in any way that makes sense to you. Be creative! Use your imagination and thing outside of the box!

Read all the information given in the topic **BEFORE** you begin each day. Don't dive in without all of the information you need to complete your journal in excellence! That is just silly to do.

At NO TIME will late journals be accepted! They are due upon entering class every Tuesday!