

Journals

Journal Guide

Choose one of the following approaches to your journal. Change your approach after the mid-term if you want to. Write at least three entries per week. If you can't connect with any of these approaches, please let the instructor know.

1. Take an issue brought up by the readings such as racism, family relationships, violence, or religion and react stating your own opinions.
2. Make your journal a continuous dialogue with:
 - a fictitious person
 - a famous person
 - a personified trait of your personality (such as pessimism, trust or melancholy)
3. Explore one question you are curious about. Write the question at the beginning of each entry and relate things that come to mind to that particular question.
 - What is education? - WHAT IS A FAMILY?
 - What is communication?
 - What is good art? - WHAT IS LITERATURE?
 - What is love?
 - What is good writing?
4. Set up two themes that antagonize each other. Let them duel throughout your journal.
 - freedom vs. discipline
 - aggression vs. restraint
 - solitude vs. socializing
 - dependence vs. independence
 - solemn vs. humorous
5. Write a story. Make every journal entry one chapter. Give characters meaningful names. Use your imagination to make every day happenings or thoughts into conflicts for your characters.
6. Investigate each of your family relationships through your entries. For the first half of the semester consider how each relationship has contributed to your identity within your family (private self). For the second half of the semester consider how each relationship has influenced your identity outside the family (public self).
7. React to the class readings in each journal entry. What does the writing make you think of? What things do you identify with? What parts didn't you understand? How would you have written the piece? What are your opinions about the issues raised?
8. Make your journal a series of newspaper articles. Write humorous and/or serious articles about actual events that happen to you, campus events, national news, or world affairs.
9. Choose one quote from assigned readings, write it at the top of the page and react to the quote.
10. Come up with a new approach and share it with the instructor.

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11. Photo responses. Tape a photo to the top of a page and then write a response to the photo.
 - For the first half of the semester react to past photos of you and your friends and family; discuss what the photos say about who you are. For the second half of the semester take new photos of whatever you want and consider what these photos say about who you are now.
 - Tape photos from publications (ads and/or article photos) and consider what these depictions say about the social culture of 1996.
12. Take two television shows you watch regularly and write the conflict at the top of your page. Consider the following questions:
 - What really makes this character tick?
 - What does this episode say about the social culture of the 1990's?
 - Compare how you would respond to the given conflict with how one of the characters reacts.
 - Write a new more satisfying ending for the episode.
13. Print out parts of a conversation on the internet and staple them into your journal.
 - Compare face-to-face communication with computer conversation.
 - Write in what you were really thinking in between the lines of the printed conversation
 - Write a reaction to issues raised in your conversation
 - Give you entire journal the theme of how technology is changing communication
14. As you read the class assignments, compare the literature written by men to the literature written by women. What differences do you notice? Does your own writing show these differences as well?