

# **DAILY JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT**

## **Why?**

Journal writing is an exercise that helps you analyze and synthesize your thinking about your experiences. Writing helps you organize your thoughts and plan for the future. Re-reading your journal at intervals prompts you to find solutions, consider new possibilities, and review your understanding.

## **When?**

Journals will be assigned sporadically throughout the semester. Journals can be written during your ECP hour or during your free time.

## **How?**

Please exhibit conventional, good writing practices. You don't have to be super-formal, but please use proper punctuation and spelling.

The question always arises: "How much do I have to write?" The answer is enough so I can see learning and progress reflected in your writing. That may range from one nice-sized paragraph to a page or so.

## **What?**

There will be two types of journal entries for you to complete:

- Specified Entries – For these, you will be asked to read and react to an article; answer a specific question; watch a short video or surf a website and react to it; or do something else specific. The journal assignment will be posted in the classroom. If you come across an article, website, etc. which you think the class as a whole would benefit from, please let me know—I'm always on the lookout for these things!
- Free Writes – For these, you will commit to paper what you are learning, comprehending, observing, and contemplating. I am not interested in reading about your weekend activities, personal dilemmas, or daily habits. I am truly interested in you, but only ECP-related activities are appropriate in the journal!

## **Where?**

If you wish to hand-write your journal entries, they should be kept in a spiral notebook with your name and class hour on the front.

If you prefer to type your journal entries, printouts should be kept in a 1" (No Thicker!) three-ring binder with your name and class hour on the front.

Once you decide to handwrite your entries, you're stuck with that format. Once you decide to type your entries, you're stuck with that format. I will not accept typed journals in spiral notebooks or handwritten ones in three-ring binders, so choose carefully! Your journal should look nice, not like a pile of disorganized papers. *Please choose the typed option if your handwriting is sloppy or otherwise hard to read!*

## **Due Dates**

Journals will be collected on a schedule to be determined as we go. Late (unexcused) journals will NOT be accepted! Not turning in journals can really hurt you because they make up a large chunk of your daily grade!

## **Grading**

The total value of your journal entries for the semester is 100 daily points which will be awarded based on the completeness, quality, and depth of your reflections. The more thoughtful and well-developed your entries, the better your score.

