

Writing Foundations Journals

The point of journal writing is...

1. **To have something constructive/purposeful to do** while Ms. B. hands back papers and answers questions each week.
2. **To practice using the techniques** we have been learning in class in personal writing.
3. **To prepare information for future assignments or the portfolios** in the spring. Many topics are brainstormed for what will be covered in the portfolios. The purpose of the journals/portfolios is to teach students how to reflect on their own writing and start to recognize, analyze, and master their own writing styles.
4. **To receive 10 points per journal.** Students should copy the topic in class and finish it at home if needed.
5. **Copying the journal topic does not count for points**, but many students need to do so in order to complete the topic at home.
6. Some students can complete a whole journal in class, some can only get the topic copied. Students should **work according to their skill ability and should not disrupt or interrupt other students during journal time.**
7. When the topic calls for writing sentences, students must **NUMBER their sentences and highlight appropriately** to receive full credit.

If the topic calls for a paragraph of discussion or other non-sentence task, students need to write a **minimum of 5 complete sentences** to receive 10 points for each journal.

8. **Each journal is due the week AFTER it was assigned**, but students can hand in a finished journal on the day it was assigned if s/he adequately finishes it in class.

9. **Late journals will automatically lose 3 points** unless a student has permission from the parent to hand the paper in late. Attach a parent note in such situations.

