

Some guidelines for Journals Through Sept 30:

1. Twist the prompt so that you can write about it. Example, for today's prompt, "The Best Day of Summer," replace the words Best, Day, Summer with other words: Worst Week of Summer, Best Day of Winter, Best Month of Fourth Grade. The possibilities are endless.
2. Journals are made up of raw ideas that don't necessarily make sense or follow rules of writing. A journal may be a list, word associations, personal definitions of words. Journals should start with the twisted prompt idea and may steer off course into uncharted territory. A journal may start with the prompt and end up with a description of lunch or a letter to a friend.
3. Journals are free practice in writing. With a 3/4 page minimum, students should write continuously for about 13 minutes. If an idea goes on for two pages in that time, great. If there is nothing more to say, switch gears, twist the prompt again or pick a new topic. Sometimes, writing about your favorite things or even something as simple as breakfast ends many journals when the topic only inspires a half of a page.
4. Journals are private.
 - A. Students volunteer to share, or at least, if called on, decide what to share from their journal, whether they choose to read the entire text, a passage, or just summarize some part of the writing. Journals are shared with other people in general only if the writer gives permission to the reader or volunteers to discuss a journal idea with a friend or family member.
 - B. The writing teacher will read or skim the journal, and often times check off the writing as practice. Students have been advised to not share personal or private information, and should only write about subject matter that can be read by the teacher. Besides the teacher, journals will not be read by other students as part of any assignment or writing process in class.
5. Journal ideas and writing practice will be used to develop personal themes and ideas for poems, short stories and personal essays. Students will use their journal writing entries as a resource for developing other, more edited forms of writing.