

Journal Prompts

One of the best ways to get students to think reflectively and become comfortable with the writing process is through journal writing. Journals can be shared or very personal. They might be reviewed by peers, read by instructors or TA, or kept to oneself. However, the questions can encourage students to think critically, and gain practice in their writing skills. What follows is a selection of questions you may want to use as journal topics or ways to generate discussion in class.

- What is the purpose of college?
- What accomplishment (major or minor) have you been praised for?
- What was a difficult time in your life; how did you make it through?
- What are some important goals in life?
- What news article or story has caught your attention recently?
- “Mistakes are the portals of discovery,” according to James Joyce. When have you turned a mistake into a discovery?
- What is your most indispensable possession and why?
- Write about being friends with your brother or sister or cousin.
- Write about a day spent in another country.
- Describe someone who has aged gracefully
- How many barriers do I place between myself and my ability to seize an opportunity?
- How often does opportunity knock in life?
- What is success for you in the following areas: Education, Career, Health, Finances, Relationship, etc.?
- Having written about what success means to me, I discovered that I...
- Having written about what success means to me, I intend to...
- Talk with a significant adult in your life about college. Summarize the conversation.

Reflecting on the semester:

- What is your advice to a first-year student; what would you tell an incoming student about college?
- What is the best lesson you have learned this semester?
- What would you like to change for next semester?