

Tips for Writing:

Suggestions for Journal Entries

1. Journal entries are informal explorations of a subject or idea you have about a work we are studying. They are *not* summaries of the plot or action of the work.
2. Journal entries should be about 1 full page long (about 250 words, typed, double-spaced).
3. Begin your journal entry with a question that the journal entry answers. This question can be one you devise or a prompt suggested in class discussion or by the instructor. It should be a question that leads to explanation of an opinion, not a summary of the action of the work.
4. Write your journal entry *after* doing the reading for that week.
5. Journal entries will be evaluated based on how well they wrestle with an interesting question about the reading. They are not essays, so you're not expected to use quotations.
6. It's fine to focus on a single scene, character, or significant passage in the journal entry. The entry isn't supposed to be the kind of broad topic you'd explore in an essay, something that covers the work as a whole.
7. Submit journal entries in the Drop Box on ANGEL by the date listed on the syllabus. Early submissions are always OK; late ones are not accepted.