

# Reading Journals

Utilizing an informal essay format, generate your opinions and observations on various course materials throughout the term.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Show your comprehension of the reading materials for five items from syllabus.
2. Strengthen reading concepts and presentation of your observations before class.
3. Use full sentence format: roughly 300 words.
4. Isolate your impressions of the material read.
5. Answer the following questions:
  - state the author's intentions and/or themes
  - state whether the piece is mainly informative, persuasive, or entertainment
  - decipher who the primary audience is: do they agree or disagree with author?
  - state why or why you do not like the essay: be very specific — *cite examples*
  - what casual observations do you have regarding the story?
  - what are the essay's weak points or major strengths?
6. Other items to include:
  - describe details which helped you relate (or not relate) to author
  - be as expressive & creative with your presentation: doodle, use emoticons, bold or italic text, add illustrations or photos; create an online blog
7. Choose from the following list of authors and creative works:
  - 02.02: Sandra Cisneros, "Only Daughter" p 97
  - 02.04: E. B. White, "Once More to the Lake" p 186
  - 02.09: Isabel Allende, "The Amazon Queen" *handout*
  - 02.11: N. Scott Momaday, "The Way to Rainy Mountain" *handout*
  - 02.16: Brent Staples, "Just Walk on By" p 236
  - 02.23: Arthur Miller, "Get it Right: Privatize Executions" p 299
  - 03.04: Robin Lakoff, "The Power of Words in Wartime" p 377
  - 03.30: Deborah Tannen, "Sex, Lies, and Conversation" p 436
  - 04.06: Stephanie Ericsson, "The Ways We Lie" p 485
  - 04.15: Jose Antonio Burciaga, "Tortillas" p 524"
  - 04.29 Virginia Woolf, "The Death of the Moth" *handout*
8. Exercises are due typed before class lecture for date shown.