

English 1301: Composition I (CRN 30015)

Reading Response Journal

Of the many writing projects involved within a composition writing course, one of the most important is the maintenance of a *Reading Response Journal*. This type of notebook offers an organized space for you to creatively think out problems and word-puzzles provided to you by your instructor, all within a set-time limit. Such writing journals also allow the instructor to see the process of how you think, see how you personally respond to given situations, and see how well you understand the weekly lectures. Utilizing this structure, serves your main goal of obtaining a high score at the finish of the school term. However, there are other diverse end results for this assignment — some more obvious than others.

Aside from bettering your grades, the main function of a Reading Response Journal is for you to gain a greater sense of **your Writer Self**, that inner narrator that dictates your everyday life. Overall, writing is a difficult process. A perfect idea is never fully drafted within a few, quick moments of time. Another point to stress, creative writers do not have a special gene for developing their poems and stories. Skilled writers have practiced their craft over long periods of time, drafting numerous pages, and redrafting even more pages just to reach at a concluding product. Journals help beginning writers to connect easily to their thoughts, and at the same time, provide a stockpile of material for possible later use.

Secondly, reading journals help students discover what their opinions actually are. Some issues and situations do not allow an immediate, formal judgment to be made in a hasty fashion. Especially in higher academic levels, writing prompts require you to narrow down broad concepts into smaller, specific, narrower trains of thought. A writing notebook shows how a complex idea formulates into a well-crafted scholastic paper.

The reading journal is an-going project. The class will be building these individual notebooks in a collective fashion. Various steps will be implemented along the way throughout the weeks ahead. **Note:** overall, seven (7) scheduled opportunities exist for Reading Response entries.