

Rubric for Assessing a Journal Entry

Grading Criteria	Excellent	Acceptable	Minimal	Unacceptable
Content	Response to assigned topic is thorough and well written, with varied sentence structure and vocabulary; all opinions are well supported.	Response is thoughtful and fairly well written; most opinions are well supported.	Response adequately addresses some aspects of the assigned topic; opinions are sometimes poorly supported.	Response consists largely of unsupported opinions marginally related to the topic.
Idea Development	Makes excellent use of examples and details in exploring and developing ideas and opinions.	Shows good use of examples and details to develop ideas and opinions.	Ideas are incompletely developed; details and examples are lacking or not always relevant.	Ideas are not clearly stated or developed.
Organization	Is very clearly organized; contains clear introduction, detailed development of main idea (or ideas), and strong conclusion.	Contains introduction, some development of ideas, and conclusion.	Topics are discussed somewhat randomly; entry may lack introduction or conclusion.	Entry is largely unstructured.
Mechanics	Has nearly flawless spelling, punctuation, and grammar.	Has some minor spelling, punctuation, or grammar mistakes.	Has some significant spelling, punctuation, or grammar mistakes.	Has several serious spelling, punctuation, or grammar mistakes; are mistakes throughout entry.