Daily Journal Guidelines

"The desire to write grows with writing."

~Desiderius Erasmus
DAILY JOURNAL GUIDELINES

The Daily Journal is a required part of Free World U’s accredited school. Students need to write in their journals every day that they log in to the website. However, daily writing doesn’t have to be difficult or painful. Below is more information about requirements for the Daily Journal as well as some suggestions for writing.

All students, please do:
✓ Start each sentence with a capital letter and use proper punctuation.
✓ Use proper grammar to the best of your ability.
✓ Use complete sentences.
✓ Check your spelling.
✓ Discuss a variety of subjects. (A list of possible topics will be given below.)
✓ Use descriptive language. Help me to “see” what you are saying.
✓ Read my responses to your journal entries.
✓ If I make a suggestion for future entries, please follow the suggestion.
✓ Make journal entries every day that you log in to work on flashcards and/or exam cards.
✓ I love to read your favorite quotes and song lyrics but they should only be a part of your journal entries – tell me about why those quotes or lyrics are important to you. Each day’s entry must contain original writing by you.
✓ Your journal is an important part of your school day. Letters will be sent out to parents when you miss seven days in a row.

For all students, a list of what not to do:
✓ Do not use text-speak. (In other words, write out complete words.)
✓ Do not use inappropriate language.
✓ Do not tell inappropriate jokes or stories.
✓ Do not repeat the same thing every day.
✓ Do not make a list as your journal entry.

Elementary School students**:
Kindergarten and First grade: Write at least one full sentence.*
Second grade: Write at least two full sentences.*
Third grade: Write at least three full sentences.*
Fourth grade: Write at least four full sentences.*

Middle School students**:
Fifth grade – eighth grade: Write at least one full paragraph.

High School students**:
Ninth grade-twelfth grade: Write at least two full paragraphs.

*For students who cannot write independently, their parent or learning coach may write a dictation under the student’s entry. For example, a kindergarten student may write, “I lk u.” The parent may then type, “I like you.”
**For students unable to meet the requirements for their grade level, the parent or learning coach should contact Pamela Smith at Pamela.smith@freeworldu.org for alternate arrangements.
Suggested Topics

(These are suggestions to help you when you cannot think of something to write about. You are not required to use any of these topics.)

- Write about your favorite book. Tell me why you liked it. Who was your favorite character? What was the genre of the book? Who would you recommend it to? Did you learn something from the book or was it just fun to read? (You could probably turn this into several days’ worth of entries.)
- Write about connections between your flashcard studies and the rest of your life (for example, how learning about fractions helped you cook dinner, or how a show you watched on the History channel related to your social studies class).
- Write about your favorite movie.
- Do you watch television? What do you like to watch and why?
- Do you have hobbies? Tell me about them.
- What is the most interesting place you’ve ever been?
- Where would you like to go that you have never been?
- If you ruled the world, what would be your five most important laws?
- Who is the person you admire the most? (historically, personally, fiction character)
- Write a poem.
- Write a song.
- Write a short story.
- What are your most important goals?
- Tell me about your pets.
- Tell me about the area you live in. What kinds of trees, plants, and animals live there? I love to hear interesting facts about the different states and countries.
- What is your favorite food? Would you eat it every day if you could?
- What makes you happier than anything else in the world?
- Your perfect day—what would you do?
- What was the worst day in your life?
- Tell me about your family. Nothing personal, just things like how many siblings you have, what your family likes to do for fun...
- Do you do chores? How do you feel about this? Do you think you should be paid or should children be active in taking care of the home and yard because everybody needs to do their part?
- Tell me about your dreams. Is there something that you want to be or do that is important to you?
- What kind of music do you like? Do you listen to music frequently? Can music influence your mood?
- Tell me about your best traits. Are you a kind person? Do you like to help people?
- Tell me about your worst traits. How do you think you could change?