

# Journals

Do's and Don'ts



# Journal Structure

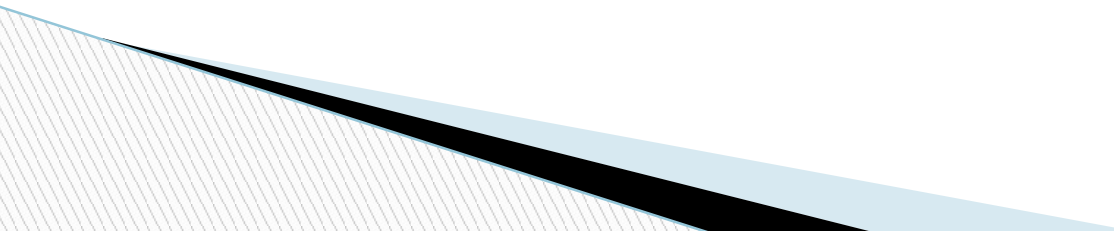
**Regular journal responses should be a minimum of 5 complete sentences. FREE WRITE journal responses should be a minimum of 10 complete sentences.**

**Each sentence should relate to the topic by explaining the quote, describing a relevant supporting example, or tying your example back to the topic.**



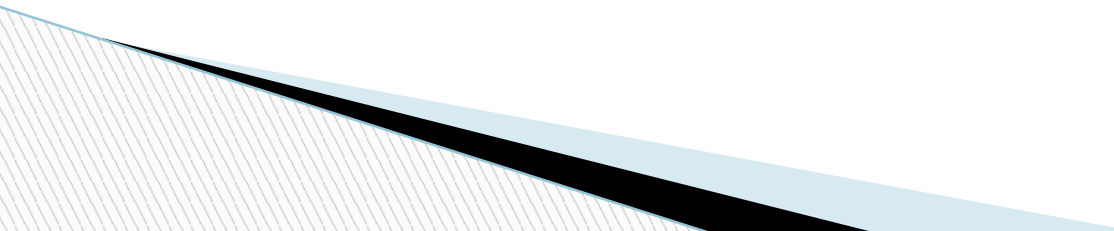
# 3 Parts of a Response

**Each journal response should have 3 parts:**

- **Topic Sentences** - The first few sentences that explain the meaning of the quote or address the topic.
  - **Supporting Examples** - The middle sentences that prove or illustrate the topic sentence. A supporting example is evidence that shows what you are trying to prove in your first few sentences.
  - **Explanation** - The last few sentences that explain your supporting example and tie it back to the journal topic.
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# Show Me the Money

**You will receive 3 points for each part of the topic you complete – explaining the quote, using specific examples to support your point, and elaborating on your examples to tie to the topic. The last point will be given based on flow of ideas and sentence structure.**



# Common Writing Mistakes

**5 points will be deducted from each journal response for the following mistakes:**



# Not Writing the ENTIRE Topic

- ❑ **1.** Not writing the ENTIRE topic: including “Explain what the quote means. Use specific examples to support your point. Elaborate on your examples to tie to the topic.”

If you don't write the entire topic out I don't know if you actually understand what you are supposed to be doing for the assignment.

# Punctuation and Capitalization

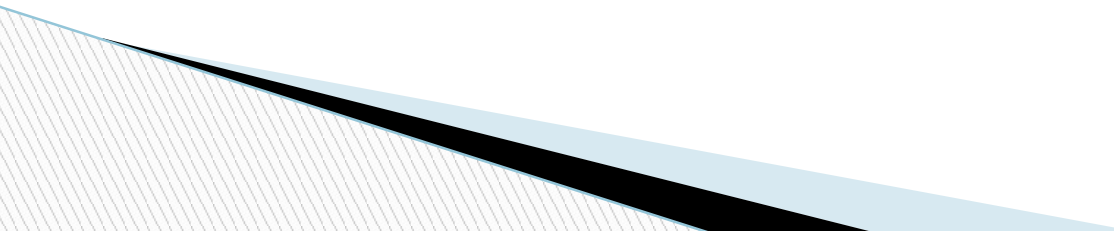
- ❑ **2.** Not using punctuation – not putting a period or a question mark at the end of a sentence.  
The “...” is supposed to represent that you are continuing an idea somewhere else. It is not the same as using a period.
- ❑ **3.** Not capitalizing proper nouns and pronouns (Tehachapi, Mike, I, ect). Not capitalizing titles: Siddhartha, Halo 3, Wal-Mart, Not capitalizing words at the beginning of a sentence.  
Capitalizing random letters and words that should not be capitalized.

# Misusing and Misspelling

- ▣ 4. Misusing or misspelling the words: I, I'm, there, their, they're, where, were, we're, wear, your, you're, rite, right, write, ~~wright~~ (this is not a word it is someone's name), cause, because, which, witch, to, too, two, know, no, now, our, are, hole, whole, loose, lose, college, ~~a lot~~ (should be **a lot**).



# Inappropriate Abbreviations and Responses

- ▣ **5.** Inappropriate abbreviations: wanna, gonna, sorta, kinda, cuz, LOL, OMG, C, U, R, and anything similar to any of these.
  - ▣ **6.** Writing inappropriate responses. Writing about things that are distasteful or inappropriate for school or illegal.
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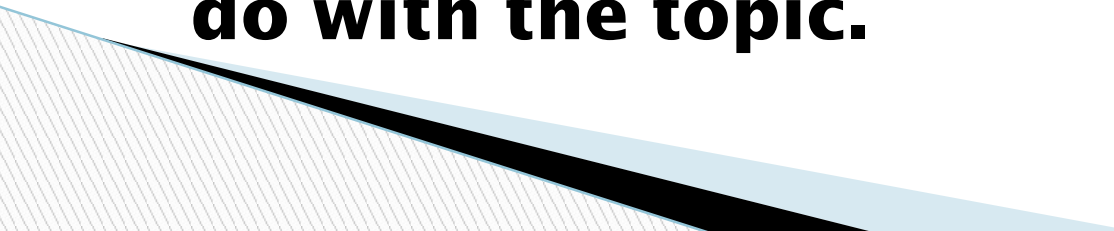
# AUTOMATIC ZERO

## ▣ Not having a written and typed copy of your journals:

Typed journals will not be graded if the written journal is not complete. The 2 copies do NOT have to be identical, but the typed response should be an improvement from the written response. If the written response only has one or two sentences and is not complete then the typed response will receive a ZERO! Anyone caught copying the typed version of their journals onto their written copy of their journals will automatically receive a ZERO for the entire set of journals. The writing process should be completed in the appropriate order or else the entire assignment will receive a ZERO!

# Complete Sentences

**A complete sentence expresses a complete thought. It is very important that you proofread your responses to make sure that your sentences are complete and make sense. Every sentence of your response should make sense and relate to the topic. Journal responses often do not make any sense because of a lack of sentence structure or because they do not have anything to do with the topic.**



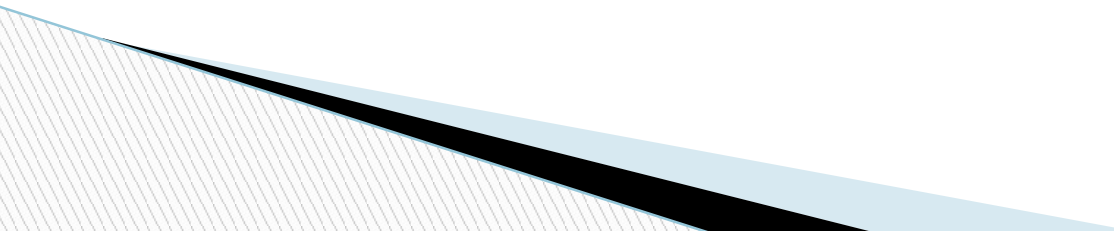
# Incomplete Sentences

**Read your sentences aloud to make sure that they make sense on their own and relate to the topic. Incomplete sentences will NOT count toward your point total for your journal response.**

## Incomplete Sentence Examples:

- Only you can not your friends.*
- A goal in life or a sporting event.*
- If I want to play football later.*
- But if you do every assignment it's hard.*

# More Bad Examples

- ▣ *Going up hills is harder to get to.*
  - ▣ *Like cheating on a test or lying.*
  - ▣ *If you get hurt and your friends are there.*
  - ▣ *This means usually if a person isn't good at something.*
  - ▣ *If you don't like something that you can't get rid of in life.*
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## Well I sorta think this might be right...

**Be DIRECT when writing a journal response! Don't write "I think this means" or "I don't know what this means." Don't refer to yourself in your response unless the topic asks something specific about you or unless you are describing a story with you in it.**

**The only time you should write "I think" is if the topic asks what you think or if you are describing something you think in a FREE WRITE.**

# We Don't Believe in Filler Baby!

**Don't write filler sentences like: "That is what the quote means." Don't repeat the journal quote as your explanation for what it means.**

Filler Example:

"The man who can't dance thinks the band is no good." Explain, Support, Elaborate.

The man who can't dance thinks the band is no good. The man probably just doesn't like music and dancing. That's what the quote means.

# Addressing the Topic

**Make sure that you are following the directions, don't just write about how you feel or what you think.**

**Bad Example:** “You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf.” Explain, Support, Elaborate.

Some times it's hard to surf if you are not good at swimming. Surfing can be really fun. It's hard to surf if you can't stop the waves.

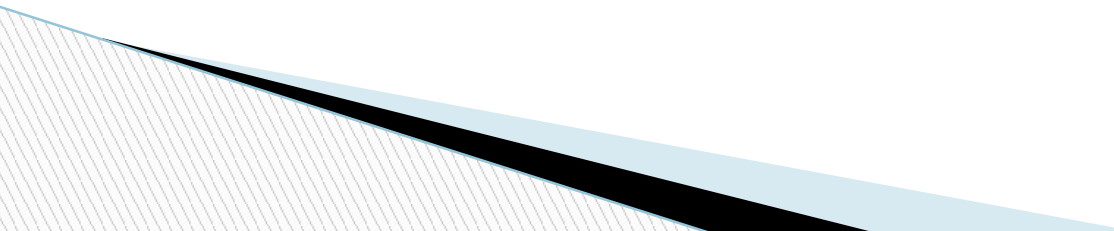


# What am I Supposed to Write About?

**Make sure that your response deals with the entire quote; don't just write about one part of the quote.**

**Bad Example:** “The best way to escape from a problem is to solve it.” Explain, Support, Elaborate.

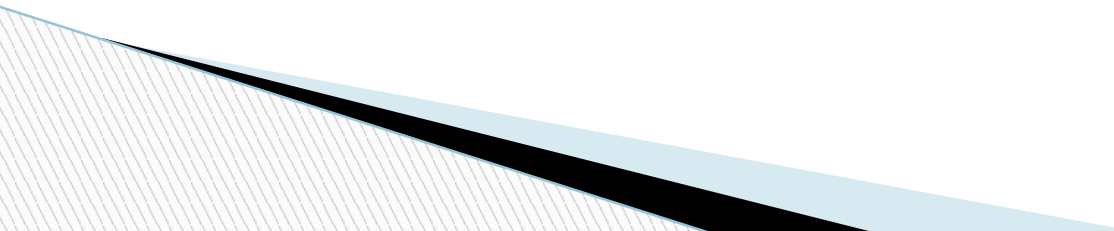
Everyone has problems they can't get away from. Sometimes we do stuff and we can't take it back. Problems are always coming up in life all the time.



**The following journal responses are not relevant; they do not address the writing topic or explain the meaning of the entire quote:**

**Bad Examples:** “Any man can win when things go his way; it’s the man who overcomes adversity that is the true champion.” Explain, Support, Elaborate.

It’s easy to win when you have an advantage. My sister was the best player on her team and she always scored all of the points for her team. She was really the only reason why her team always won. The other teams tried hard but they weren’t as good as my sister so they didn’t have as good of a chance to win. You have to be good at what you do and try hard if you want to win.



# More Irrelevant Responses:

**Bad Example:** “People are just about as happy as they make up their minds to be.” Explain, Support, Elaborate.

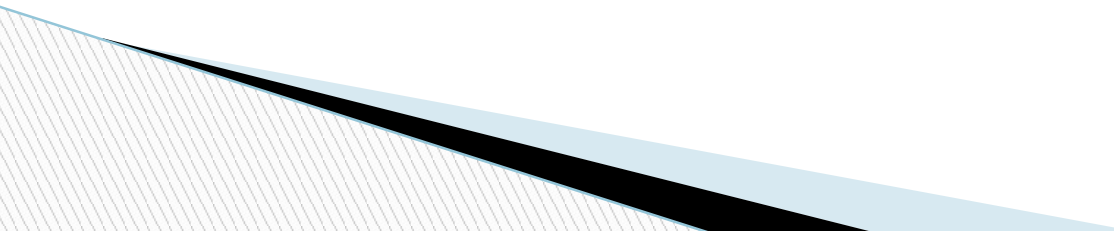
Happiness is very important to life. I like it when I am happy I don't like being bummed out or sad. My mom always tells me to be happy when I am sad, but sometimes I can't help it. It's hard being happy when something bad has happened to you.

# “I did some stuff and it was fun!”

## Use Detailed Supporting Examples

Detailed supporting examples are examples that paint a picture and show the reader exactly what idea you are trying to get across. The following sentences do not convey the author’s point or illustrate a detailed situation.

### Bad Examples:

- For example, people will always try to make you something that you are not. You just have to be yourself.
  - When life makes things difficult you have to deal with it.
  - It is easier to give up, but hard work gets you farther.
  - Just be yourself and do not be something you’re not, because it can hurt you.
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# Not Very Specific

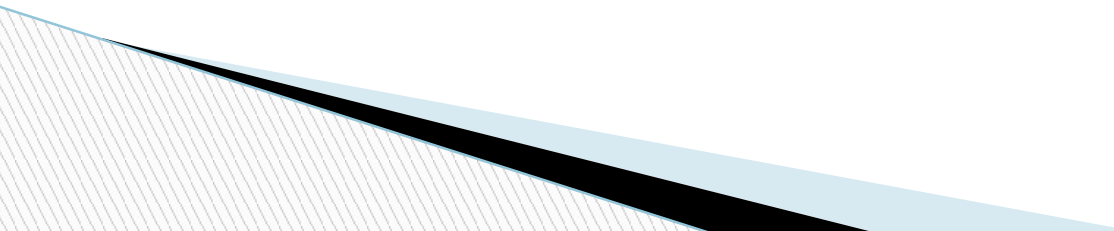
**Bad Example:** “How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it.” Explain what the quote means. Use specific examples to support your point of view.

The quote is saying that anger can cause more pain. **For example, if someone is mad it is usually for a bad reason.** **They're** anger makes them do other stuff **that is bad too.** Anger just keeps on going.

The following journal responses are not elaborate; they do not use detailed examples to support or clarify their point:

**Bad Example:** “The more you are willing to accept responsibility for your actions, the more credibility you will have.” Explain the quote and use examples to support your point.

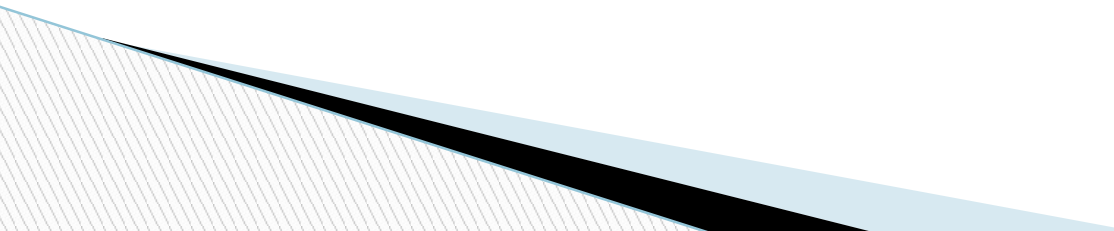
The quote is saying that credibility is earned through honesty and owning up to things that you have done. **For example, if someone is always lying about things that they do then it is hard for anyone to trust them. That person is going to have a bad reputation if they don't start accepting the things that they do.** Responsibility is important for credibility.



**Things are boring so I don't like to do stuff.**

**Here is a good specific detailed supporting example:**

**Good Example:** In life, different things make different people happy. For example, my friend Brian is 6'3 and likes to play football, but I am only 5'7 and playing football isn't fun for me, because I get hurt too much. Just because football makes Brian happy doesn't mean that it has to make me happy too.



# Printing Your Journals

- \* If you have trouble printing your journals at home save them on a flash drive and bring them to school to print in the Career Center, the Learning Lab (room 1218), the Library, or the Computer Lab.
  - \* If you don't have a flash drive email your journals to yourself and you can open your email in the Career Center, the Learning Lab (room 1218), the Library, or the Computer Lab and print them out from there.
  - \* If you are unable to print them out you can email them to me to print. I will not print your journals if they are not sent as a single document. I will not fix any formatting issues that your journals have before I print them.
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