Sample Journal:

This is a partial journal from a former student. The goal of a journal is to fully explore the reading. Dig deep in the reading to answer the questions. Do not just offer one sentence examples.

*…To me, salvation is asking the Lord to forgive me for all of my sins and me promising in return to live a righteous life. I do believe that someone can create a religious/spiritual experience for someone else. Churches do it all of the time. In a lot of churches, they sing and clap and dance and these actions seem to “whip” the congregation into a frenzy. The pastor helps by driving home his message and persuading his congregation by using repetition and anecdotes. During sermons, people can be seen writhing on the floor or shouting out religious sayings and “speaking in tongues.” They seem to be having a “religious experience.”*

*To be truthful, I have never had a disappointing experience in my life. I am only fifteen, so I expect that to change when I leave home or attempt to date. I have lived a very sheltered life. I think I would be disappointed if I did not get something that I really wanted, if I did not do very well in something that I attempted like a sporting activity, and if my home-life was not good. My parents have a system in our house, whereby, you write down whatever you need on a white board that they have in the kitchen. I know what they will buy for me and what they will not. For the things that they will not buy for me, but are allowed in the house, I use the money that I get from various relatives for those purchases. The only sport that I have competitively participated in is tae-kwan-do and that was a positive experience. My home-life experience is very positive and I have never been let down by anyone or lied to by anyone that I am aware of. My parents are big believers of people being truthful, so I assume that everything that they tell me is the truth. I can imagine what it would feel like to be disappointed, but I do not know for sure. I certainly would never ever want to be as disappointed as young Langston was. The experience seemed to have traumatize him so much that he cried. I hope that never happens to me.* (Student journal sample)