

## Journal writing

### What is journal writing?

Journal writing is similar to Learning Logs, in that students have time and a place to write down their understandings, ask questions, think and write about their feelings, issues, concerns and wonderings. There are different types of journal writing to support students to think in different ways about what and how they are learning, as well as linking with what they already know.

**Ideas for different journals:** From: <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/actbank/tjournal.htm>

#### *Reflective journal*

In a reflective journal entry the student identifies an activity and reflects on the material learned. This journal helps learners to understand the processes and feelings that are part of learning - that learning may be hard, take a long time, come in 'spurts', may need to be attached to what they already know.

Reflective journal		
What happened?	How do I feel about it?	What did I learn?

#### *Synthesis journal*

At the end of the week's activities or at the end of a unit of work/learning, students reflect on the cumulative activities. This activity encourages students to review past experiences and plan for future applications. The act of writing reinforces what was learned, and supports deeper understanding. This journal helps learners to make sense of what they are learning and how it may be applied or transferred to another area of learning.

Synthesis journal		
What I did	What I learned	How I can use it

### *Effects journal*

Here the student examines events and speculates about the possible long-term effects resulting from such events. This type of journal entry encourages the student to anticipate the effects of the event/s experienced. By thinking about what happened and the possible reasons for this, learners are encouraged to make links with previous learning and predict future events based on what they know. When their predictions are not accurate students need time for discussion with others to explore the possible reasons.

Effects journal	
What happened	What could happen because of this

### *Dialectical journal*

The dialectical journal is a type of double-entry note-taking activity which students use while reading literature. In the two columns students write notes that dialogue with one another. By asking why the quote is interesting the learner is exploring their own feelings and preferences, making links with previous understandings, and helping to develop critical reading and reflective questioning.

Dialectical journal		
Quotation	Page	Why do I find this quotation interesting or important?

### *Double entry journal*

The double entry journal allows students to record their responses to text as they read. In the left-hand page or column, the student copies or summarises text which is intriguing, puzzling, or moving, or which connects to a previous entry or situation. In the right-hand page or column, the student writes their response to the quotation or summary. The entry may include a comment, a question, a connection made, or an analysis. Entries are made whenever a natural pause in the reading occurs, so that the flow is not interrupted constantly.

Double Entry Journal	
Quotation – a phrase or sentence I especially like	My thoughts about the quotation

## Explicit links to the SA Teaching for Effective Learning Framework

### *Domain 4 – Personalise and connect learning:*

apply and assess learning in authentic contexts:

- assessment *'for', 'of' and 'as'* learning – journals provide students with the opportunity to reflect on what they have been learning, how they can use what they have learnt and where their next learning focus is: self-assessment.