

## **FYC Informal Writes/Journal Entries**

Because one of the best ways to improve your writing is to write as often as possible, you'll complete a variety of informal writing assignments in my FYC class on a regular basis (generally, about one a week, with no more than 16 all semester). Over the course of the semester, I will refer to these assignments as either "journal entries" or "informal writes," using the terms interchangeably.

### **Journal Entry Details and Requirements:**

- Each entry is worth from 0 to 5 points.
- Most of the time, each entry is due the class after it was assigned.
- Most of the time, each entry must be *at least* one full page of typed, single-spaced text, following the format requirements shown on the sample entry.
- You can always write more than one page. Also, feel free to print on both sides of the page to save paper. (However, please don't print on both sides of the paper for essays.)
- Don't play formatting games to make short writing seem longer. Just write more. That's usually easier—and it's honest, too.
- Don't worry about organization, structure, style, grammar, spelling, or punctuation in any of the journal entries! Your task is to write about the assigned topic, which I will always explain in class and post to the class website for each entry.

### **Grading Journal Entries/Informal Writes:**

When I evaluate an informal write/journal entry (determining its point value between 0-5), I consider these areas:

- Is the entry at least one full page of single-spaced text? Your entry can definitely go over one page, but unless I specify otherwise (either in class or on the class website), your entry should not be less than one full page.
- Unless I have specified otherwise, is the entry formatted correctly? single-spaced? 1" margins on all sides? 12 point, Times New Roman font (or a comparable font)?
- What about the quality and focus of the writing? Are the ideas interesting, thoughtful, unique, complex, creative, etc? Additionally, did the writer stay on topic? (Remember, correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling do not matter for journal entries/informal writes.)