

## Journal Response Prompts Self-Selected Reading

Every week, you must compose a full-page of writing in response to your self-selected reading. Please use the following prompts to guide your writing. You may respond to as many prompts as you need to in order to reach a full page of writing. Remember to elaborate by providing details and to support your statements with at least two pieces evidence from the text.

For each response:

- **Label** your entry with the **title of the piece you read, the date, and the number of the prompt** you chose.
- **Check a circle** preceding the prompt each time you use it.
- **Write as much as you can** by elaborating, supporting, questioning, and critiquing. Remember, we write to think, so **strive for a full page** at least!
- Try to **vary the prompts** you choose for your responses so that you can stretch your thinking in numerous ways.
- Remember to choose a prompt that relates to the genre you've chosen.

### Fiction or Non-Fiction

- ○ ○ 1 Record what happened as you read the text- What did you remember, think, question, or feel?
- ○ ○ 2 What did you see happening in the text? You may paraphrase, or retell, it in your own words.
- ○ ○ 3 Upon what did you focus most intently as you read-what word, phrase, image, or idea? Why do you think this is?
- ○ ○ 4 How did your understanding of the text or your feelings about it change over the course of your reading? What might have been the cause of this change?
- ○ ○ 5 How did you think about the text- did you analyze it, examine your own associations and memories, react to the observations of others, or something else?
- ○ ○ 6 What was the most confusing or difficult aspect of the text? Explain how this affected your reading and how you dealt with it.
- ○ ○ 7 Choose a passage that you find particularly beautiful or powerful. What devices (imagery, figurative language, etc.) did the author use to make an impact on the reader?
- ○ ○ 8 If the author/were here, what would you say or ask him or her? Why?
- ○ ○ 9 Evaluate whether the title is fitting, or appropriate for this text. Explain.

### Fiction

- ○ ○ 10 Describe the setting. Create a new setting that you think would be more appropriate for the novel and explain why it is more fitting, or appropriate.
- ○ ○ 11 What other literary work (novel, play, poem, short story, film) does this text call to mind? What is the connection you see between the two?

- ○ ○ 12 What is the most important conflict, or problem, in this text? How is the main character affected by it? Explain.
- ○ ○ 13 Describe the main character. Remember to use adjectives, descriptive words, and to support your judgment with textual support.
- ○ ○ 14 Which character in the story would you most like to be friends with and why?
- ○ ○ 15 Choose a character that reminds you of someone you know. Explain their similarities.
- ○ ○ 16 Become one of the characters and write a letter to another character in the text. Be sure to include references to conflict, character actions/words, other characters, or themes, et cetera.
- ○ ○ 17 Compose a diary entry from the perspective of one of the characters. Be sure to include references to conflict, character actions/words, other characters, or themes, et cetera
- ○ ○ 18 Which character changes the most over the course of the novel? Explain how s/he changes and Identify what causes, or provokes the change.
- ○ ○ 19 Choose a short passage from the text that you find important to the development of character, conflict or theme. Explain why it is important.
- ○ ○ 20 What do you hear this writer saying about human nature, or people in general?
- ○ ○ 21 Create a comic strip based on a chapter or a chunk of reading.
- ○ ○ 22 Did you like how the story/novel ended? Explain why and discuss what you might have done differently.

**Non-Fiction**

- ○ ○ 23 What is the purpose of the accompanying visual elements (graphics, charts, graphs, or images)? Please explain your thinking.
- ○ ○ 24 Why do you think the author wrote this article or book? Explain with support.
- ○ ○ 25 What did you learn from this selection?
- ○ ○ 26 How do the ideas in this selection relate to what you know about this topic?
- ○ ○ 27 Are the ideas in this selection important? Why or why not?
- ○ ○ 28 How effectively did the author communicate his or her ideas?
- ○ ○ 29 What was the author's purpose in writing this selection? How do you know?
- ○ ○ 30 Which term is most important in understanding the key ideas in this article?
- ○ ○ 31 What do you think the writer wants his/her readers to think and/or do after reading this piece?

## Rubric

Response is clearly labeled (title, the date, prompt #)	1 point
The topic sentence includes...	5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear reference to the author, title, and genre</li><li>• A restatement of the question (TTQA)</li><li>• A brief, but purposeful statement of the main idea you will develop and support.</li></ul>	
The response is well-supported and fully developed; it contains...	15 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least two specific textual references.</li><li>• Explanation of how each piece of evidence relates to the topic.</li><li>• Your reasoning, thinking, connections, conclusions.</li><li>• A complete page of writing</li></ul>	
Writing is clear and easily understood. Spelling, grammar and mechanical errors do not cloud the reader's understanding.	4 points