

# Journals – Requirements & Grading

Mrs. Lane, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science

## What are Journal Topics?

Journal Topics are an opportunity for students to get their brain in “science mode” and to practice their writing skills. The topic or question is designed to elicit a recall of information, or to encourage students to pre-think about our upcoming content.

## When/how do students complete Journals?

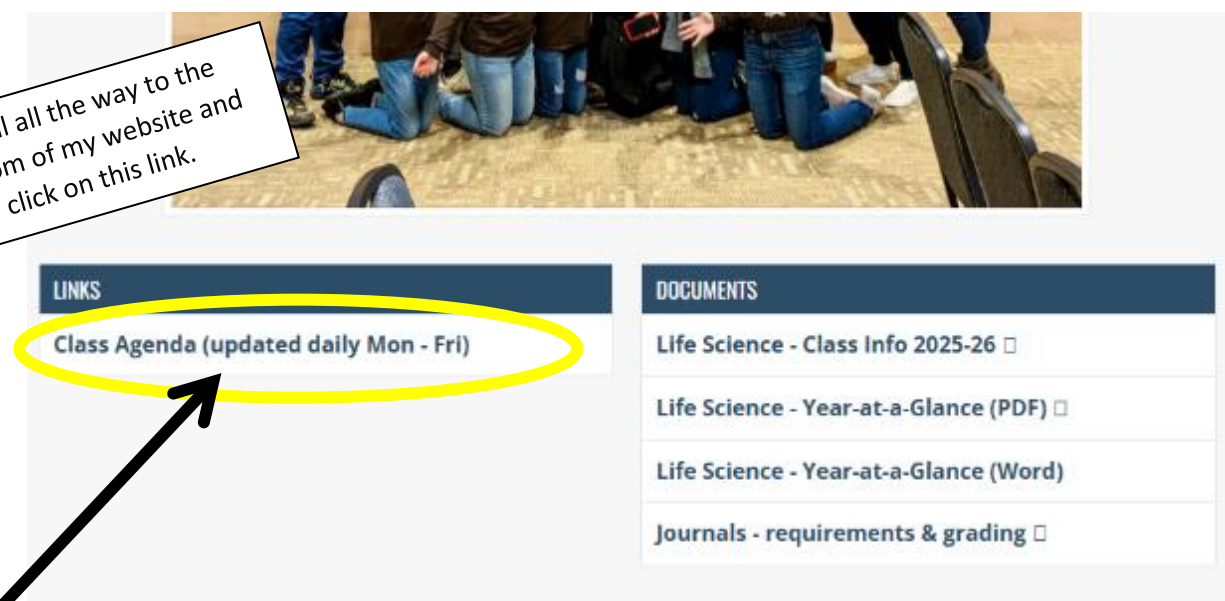
The Journal Topic is projected on the front board when students walk in. After the bell rings, students have the first five minutes of class to work on their Journal. **Anything they don’t finish is homework to be finished during Advisor or at home.**

Journals are also part of the makeup work for my class and must be completed by students who are absent.

Students & parents can access the current Journal topic, and see all previous Journal topics, by visiting my teacher website and clicking on the “Class Agenda” link (see screenshot below).

[https://staff.helenaschools.org/staff\\_page/mlane/](https://staff.helenaschools.org/staff_page/mlane/)

Scroll all the way to the bottom of my website and click on this link.



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**What do I do when I'm absent...?**

1. **Complete your Journal:** write the date, copy down the ENTIRE topic, and answer with 3 complete sentences.

2. **Read the Agenda:**

• Ask your classmate "Turn In" needs to be handed in to Mrs. Lane immediately when you return to school.

• Work that is **not** can often be worked on at home if the text is **not** you can find that work in the Assignments Tab on Teams.

3. **All other Agenda Items:** talk with Mrs. Lane when you're back to find out how to make up that work.

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**Year-Long Literacy Standards**

- I can identify and cite text evidence.
- I can determine the central idea of a text.
- I can summarize a text.

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**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD**

**Journal Topic:**

Explain what we did during The Amazing Magic Paperclip Lab. Use at least 3 complete sentences and be specific and detailed.

**Agenda:**

- **Procedures:** Start of Class, Journals
- The Amazing Magic Paperclip Lab – Day 2

**Learning Target:**

- I can use a variety of methods and tools to make measurements and observations during science investigations.

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This is what the Daily Agenda looks like. **The most recent class date will be at the top of the slide deck.** The Journal Topic is in the upper left corner of each slide.

## How are Journals graded?

Students earn their Journal points by doing the following each day:

- 1) Write down the Journal Topic. +5 pts
- 2) Write three complete sentences in response. +5 pts each

= 20 points total

**Student's response sentences do not have to be correct to get full credit; they just have to show thought & effort to earn the points.** So, if students aren't getting full credit on their Journal scores it's because they aren't finishing their work.

We grade Journals every Friday. One Journal is randomly chosen from the previous five school days by a student rolling a die.

We never grade the current Friday's Journal entry! That way students always have time to finish later if necessary.

For example: Journals from Fri 9/9, Mon 9/12, Tues 9/13, Wed 9/14, and Thurs 9/15 would be graded on Fri 9/16.

Journals will add up to a *significant* number of points by the end of each quarter. Please keep an eye on Journal grades in PowerSchool to make sure your student is earning these easy points. 😊