

Journals – Requirements & Grading

Mrs. Lane, 7th 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 get 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 can find the Journal topic outside of class by visiting my [teacher website](#) and clicking on the “Daily Agenda” link, or by visiting on my class on Teams and clicking on the “Daily Agenda” tab (see screenshot below).

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams interface. On the left, the 'Channels' list includes 'General', 'Class Notebook', 'Assignments', 'Grades', and 'Insights'. The 'General' channel is selected. The main area displays the 'Daily Agenda' tab, which is a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation title is 'Mrs. Lane 7th Grade Life Science'. The first slide is a title slide with the same text. The second slide is a table of contents. The third slide is titled 'COLOR CODES' and lists 'ORANGE TEXT' (link to the File Tab), 'PURPLE TEXT' (link to the Assignments Tab), and 'PINK TEXT' (link to the Grades Tab). The fourth slide is titled 'Your Long Term Learning Standards' and lists three standards: 'I can identify and cite text evidence.', 'I can determine the central idea of a text.', and 'I can summarize a text.'. The fifth slide is titled 'SEPTEMBER 2021' and lists 'Assignments', 'Grades', and 'Insights'. A green arrow points to the 'Daily Agenda' tab in the top navigation bar.

How are Journals graded?

Students earn their Journal point 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 9/9/22, Mon 9/12/22, Tues 9/13/22, Wed 9/14/22, and Thurs 9/15/22 would be graded on Fri 9/16/22.

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. 😊