

Journal Response

What is Journal Response and why is it important?

Journals are notebooks in which students keep personal responses to their reading. By linking reading with writing, journals help students become fluent and confident in their writing as they construct their personal meaning of text.

How do I use Journal Response with my students?

There are different types of journals students can keep. Choose one that meets your students' purpose for learning. Following are different types of journals.

- Diaries—private record of personal observations and thoughts shared only at a student's request.
- Response Journals—predictions, reflections, reactions and questions about reading; may be used to keep track of independent reading.
- Dialogue Journals—similar to a response journal except that you carry on a written conversation with students that can help them construct and clarify text meaning.
- Double-Entry Journals—a split page on which students can write predictions and ideas; students make notes before and during reading on the left side and write their reactions after reading on the right side.

Explain to students that journal writing is a way for them to think about what they have read and how they share their thoughts with others.

