

## Journal Assignment

**Which course readings do I write about?** Your journal entries should be focused on the assigned short story readings. Evidence that you have read the short stories will show in how you write about the texts.

**How many entries must I write?** You may submit one journal entry per week; a total of 10 journal entries for the semester is required. You may choose from the two readings assigned each week. The journal entry is **due** prior to class on the date of the assigned reading. Save file with your last name & journal number & upload.

**How long is a journal entry?** The entries must be one page (250 words min.) typed (double-spaced) and as free as possible of grammatical and stylistic errors (use MLA format). Most importantly, you should focus on being critical and thoughtful in your analysis; this emphasis will produce the most useful journal. **The journal entry should include the title of the work, the author's name, and a brief summary of the text as a way to introduce your analytical response.**

Use MLA header as shown below. Use the word count function on your word processor to check!

Journals are part of your invention work for your major essays.

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Student's Name

Professor's name

English 364

Date due

(center title & Be creative as title should suggest your topic!)

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**Note:** It is not acceptable to turn in as a journal entry papers you have written for other classes. It is also not acceptable to use, without attribution, material from a teaching guide, from reviews or collections of reviews, or any other material that has not been written by you for this specific assignment.

**Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. See Student Conduct Code in the university catalog. Penalty for academic dishonesty can be a "lower or failing grade [on] the assignment, examination, or the entire course." The student may also be "expelled, suspended, [or] placed on probation" (CSUN catalog). I will pursue these options if I discover plagiarized material in any of the course assignments.**

**Tips:**

- Avoid being too general--I expect specific and analytical responses in your writing.
- Use the elements of fiction found in your textbook--focus on one or two elements.
- You might focus on an aspect of the story that caught your attention--make connections to the real world.
- Use the text to support your points. For example, don't merely say, "The plot is well-constructed." SHOW how it is well constructed by discussing examples and details from the text.
- Annotating your text, as you are reading it, often proves to be a helpful tool in thinking about and writing about literature.