Journal Prompts, English 120

Reminder: Each journal entry should be a *minimum* of 250 words, or one single-space 9x11 page. Each entry is worth five points.

1. Can money buy happiness? What can or can’t money buy?
2. Describe your childhood home or one of your childhood homes. (A portrait in words).
3. Describe and analyze communication in your family. Is yours a family that talks openly about feeling and emotions?
4. 9:10 class: Summary and analysis of “[One Breath](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgU0QeBYH68).”

10:55 class: Summary and analysis of “[Pepe Le Morse](https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2018/11/11/pepe-le-morse/).”

(Describe the film and summarize how the filmmakers conveyed the film’s message)

1. What’s the most courageous thing you’ve done?
2. Read the article “[After his first Overdose My Husband Promised it Would Never Happen Again](https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-mauldin-opioids-overdose-drugs-fentanyl-20190224-story.html).” Briefly summarize the article and discuss addiction. Have you or anyone you are close to been affected by addiction?
3. How concerned are you about your health? What do you do to stay healthy and to take care of yourself (mental, physical, spiritual)?
4. Listen to “[Sonata #14 in C Minor](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oK3uAn1Y3Co)” by Ludwig Van Beethoven. What images or thoughts come to mind as you hear this music?
5. Have you ever been stereotyped or judged based on your appearance, ethnicity, or gender? Or perhaps you have stereotyped someone else? Describe and analyze.
6. 9:10 class: “[How to Make Stress Your Friend](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcGyVTAoXEU)”

10:45 class: “[10 Mindful Minutes](https://www.ted.com/talks/andy_puddicombe_all_it_takes_is_10_mindful_minutes)”

(Watch the lecture and then summarize the speaker’s points)

1. Would you change anything about how you were raised? What would you change if so? If not, what do you appreciate most about your upbringing?
2. Watch the film “[Hilal](https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2019/03/08/hilal-the-crescent/).” Summarize and explain the filmmaker’s thesis.
3. A Chinese proverb states, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Explain what you think the proverb means and then illustrate with an example from your own life or from something you’ve observed.
4. Listen to “[Complexion](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt4dUK4uce0)” by Kendrick Lamar, and as you listen, read the [lyrics](https://www.google.com/search?ei=nb2nXNusMtLY-wS-0ZLgDg&q=complexion+by+kendrick+lamar+lyrics&oq=complexion+by+kendrick+lamar+lyrics&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0.15304.16368..16824...0.0..0.85.513.7......0....1..gws-wiz.......0i22i30.q9W-c2H-xms). Is this poetry? (and how exactly would you define poetry? Also, what is the meaning behind the words?
5. Would you push the button? If you do, you’ll get one million dollars, but somewhere, someone will die. How do you justify your decision?

(For Week of April 9-13)

1. Watch “[The Children of Leningradsky](https://www.filmsshort.com/short-film-pages/the-children-of-leningradsky-andrzej-celinski-hanna-polak.html#.XKfCWvZFz5o),” an Oscar-nominated short film from 2005. What observations can you make?
2. Watch DJ Shub’s music Video (featuring The Northern Cree Singers) “I[ndomitable.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTJvpfkRRdA)” What do you think? Write a brief summary as well as an analysis. What social, political, cultural, and historical commentary is DJ Shub trying to convey?

**PART II**

1. What’s the coolest thing you’ve ever seen in nature?
2. What is creativity? Are you a creative person?
3. Photograph: Find a photo that holds special significance for you. Describe it and analyze its meaning.
4. Watch the video that depicts [a lemon rolling down the street](https://twitter.com/sakeriver/status/1017079423546212352) (Mike Sakasegawa, Twitter). What makes a meme or video go viral? Why do you think people are intrigued by this video?
5. What is the best gift you ever gave or received?
6. Has Donald Trump been a good president? Are you eligible to vote in the next election? What sort of person would you like to see become president?
7. Study [Maslow’s Pyramid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow%27s_hierarchy_of_needs) and discuss Maslow’s hierarchy as it applies to you (needs vs. wants). What do you feel it would take for you to reach the top, or to find self-actualization?
8. Study Sydney Goodman’s painting “[Figures in a Landscape](https://www.philamuseum.org/collections/permanent/69239.html).” Describe what you see and analyze the painting’s story or message.
9. Watch the video “[The Information Cycle](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drej6K44avI)” (Polk Library, 4 min.). Write a detailed summary.
10. Recall your earliest childhood memory. Describe the memory and analyze why you might remember this specific memory.