

Monthly Journal

Each month you will be required to complete **TEN** full pages of quality writing. You can choose multiple prompts to help you achieve this goal. This list will be available to you throughout the entire year, so be sure to choose prompts that you understand. All of these skills will be covered over the course of the year, so you will be able to complete any of these prompts by the spring.

Figurative Language	
Idioms	
	Make a list of idioms and categorize them (e.g. idioms that are about parts of the body, animals, nature).
	Illustrate the literal meaning of at least five idioms.
	Research and explain the origins of at least three idioms.
	Write a dialogue between two characters in which the characters only use idioms during their entire conversation.
Oxymorons	
	Make a list of at least 20 of your favorite oxymorons.
Onomatopoeia	
	Create your own superhero. What special powers would this hero possess? How would he or she use their powers? What would his or her name be? Write a story about your superhero using many examples of onomatopoeia.
Alliteration	
	Alliteration is the repetition of an initial consonant sound. Choose any consonant and write a descriptive piece several paragraphs long using many words that begin with that letter/sound.

Free Write Ideas	
	Questions or things you wonder about and don't have an answer for
	Strong memories (you're not sure why you remember it but you probably always will)
	Eavesdropping - overheard conversations; capturing dialogue exactly as it was said
	Powerful images that stick in your mind
	Family stories
	Your opinions on issues and situations
	Things that surprise you
	Dreams you have had
	Plans for a project
	Poems
	Stories
	If you could have a party and invite anyone you wanted, living or dead, who would you invite? Why?
	The use of horses for transportation changed the way the Plains Indians lived. How might their lives have changed with this new form of transportation? What other forms of transportation have dramatically affected the way people live? Explain.
	Imagine you have just walked into a baseball stadium to see your favorite team play. Describe how you might use numbers while you are there.
	Imagine you have been hired to work in a fortune cookie factory. Your job is to write fortunes. Write at least ten fortunes. They can be serious or humorous.
	Mark Twain was the pen name of Samuel Clemens. Invent a pen name for yourself, and explain why you would

	want that name printed on the books you will someday publish.
	Describe one of the four seasons. Refer to all of your senses except sight.
	"The dog ate my homework" is a typical excuse used by students. Think of some more creative lines for students to use when they have not completed their assignments.
	"I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen." (Ernest Hemingway, 1899-1961) Sit very still and listen carefully for two minutes. Write about all the sounds you hear. Did you hear things you wouldn't normally notice?
	Some scientific processes, such as the blooming of a flower, are so gradual they cannot be seen as they occur. Name some other gradual processes in nature.
	What do you think is the most scientific invention or discovery ever? Explain your answer.
	Conservation is the wise use of natural resources. Think of some ways you can help conserve natural resources.
	Identify and describe a scientific theory and a scientific fact.
	A headline briefly describes a current event. Good headlines encourage people to read the accompanying articles. Write five headlines for events you hope will happen in the world next year. Choose your favorite one and write the first paragraph of the article that might go with it. Describe some of the ways people have made changes in the geography of the Earth.
	A series of events that happens over and over is called a cycle. The revolution of the Earth around the sun is a cycle. Describe some other cycles that occur in nature.

	<p>Scientists are making new discoveries every day. Name three discoveries you would like scientists to make in the near future. Tell why you are hoping for these discoveries</p>
	<p>The ancient Greeks and Romans often created myths to explain occurrences in nature that they could not understand. Choose a natural occurrence and write a short myth that explains it.</p>
	<p>Many scientists try to find and communicate with extraterrestrial life. If you could be the first scientist to make contact with extraterrestrials, what would you tell them about our life here and what would you want to know about their lives?</p>
	<p>Would you rather have a dog or a cat? Explain your answer.</p>
	<p><i>Carpe Diem</i> is the Latin phrase for Seize the Day. How would your life change if you decided to live by this motto?</p>
	<p>What types of music do you enjoy? Why? What types of music do you dislike? Why?</p>
	<p>Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin became the first persons to walk on the moon. Draw a picture of "Earthrise" and describe how they must have felt.</p>
	<p>Write a short story about your favorite animal. Use as many math terms as possible in the story. Underline all of the math terms you use. Example: My dog likes to walk in <i>circles</i>. I <i>estimate</i> he will live <i>fifteen</i> years.</p>
	<p>If you were stranded on a desert island, how could you use math to keep yourself alive and speed your rescue? Use your imagination!</p>
	<p>Choose any event in history and alter it. Write about how history would have been different as a result of this change.</p>
	<p>"Finders keepers, losers weepers."</p>

	What does this proverb mean? Do you think this is fair? Think of a situation that would make this idea hard to live with.
	Imagine that you are receiving a Nobel prize for science. What have you done to deserve this honor?
	If you could be the first astronaut to walk on any planet, which would you choose? Why?
	Describe some family traditions you hope to pass down to your children someday.
	Describe all the ways numbers tell about you and your life. For example: the number of children in your family, your telephone number, your locker combination, etc.
	If you could be a mathematical symbol, would you rather be a plus, minus, multiplication, or division sign? How would you use your talents?
	How do you think the invention of the automobile changed life in the United States?
	Scientists are making new discoveries every day. Name three discoveries you would like scientists to make in the near future. Tell why you are hoping for these discoveries.
	Many scientists try to find and communicate with extraterrestrial life. If you could be the first scientist to make contact with extraterrestrials, what would you tell them about our life here and what would you want to know about their lives?
	Many ancient Greek myths explain the occurrence of natural phenomena such as lightning, tidal waves, thunder, and earthquakes. Write your own myth that explains a natural phenomenon.
	The force of gravity is what pulls everything toward the earth. Suppose the force of gravity was "turned

	off" between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. How would your morning routine be different?
	Write about the race to be the first person to scale Mt. Everest.
	Star groups that form patterns are called constellations. Make a group of random dots on your page. Study the dots to find a pattern that suggests a person or animal. Name your "constellation" and write a short story about it.
	Space exploration began in 1957. Do you think space exploration should receive more extensive funding from the U.S. government in the future? Why or why not?
	Astronomy is the study of the stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies. It is one of the oldest sciences. Why do you think the skies have always been so fascinating to people?
	If you were moving to the moon and you could only take five books with you, what would they be and why?
	Three modern frontiers of exploration are outer space, the ocean, and Antarctica. What makes these areas difficult to explore? How are humans attempting to explore them?
	A blue moon is the second full moon in a month. Things that occur infrequently are said to occur "once in a blue moon." Make a list of things that occur infrequently.
	A series of events that happens over and over is called a cycle. The revolution of the Earth around the sun is a cycle. Describe some other cycles that occur in nature.
	If I could become invisible
	This is my father's/mother's job
	Reasons why people lie
	The meaning of "freedom"

	I will tell you a story that is only half true
	I have something to tell you teacher.
	My accomplishments.
	The happiest moment of my life.
	The scariest thing that has everything happened to me.
	_____ is my life.
	The saddest moment of my life.
	The proudest moment of my life.
	I get scared when...
	This is my favorite sport and why.
	These are some things that I do very well.
	I am sad when...
	Why I think friendships are important.
	I wish that I could...
	Things that I like about our school.
	Things that upset me.
	My favorite subject
	My best friend.
	My three wishes.
	Our most interesting substitute teacher
	My least favorite subject.
	My most embarrassing moment.
	I watch too much television
	The most interesting place that I have ever visited

	What I would do if I were rich.
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