Journal Response Prompts
Self-Selected Reading

Every week, you must compose a full-page of writing in response to your self-selected reading. Please use the following prompts to guide your writing. You may respond to as many prompts as you need to in order to reach a full page of writing. Remember to elaborate by providing details and to support your statements with at least two pieces of evidence from the text.

For each response:
- **Label** your entry with the title of the piece you read, the date, and the number of the prompt you chose.
- **Check a circle** preceding the prompt each time you use it.
- **Write as much as you can** by elaborating, supporting, questioning, and critiquing. Remember, we write to think, so **strive for a full page** at least!
- Try to **vary the prompts** you choose for your responses so that you can stretch your thinking in numerous ways.
- Remember to choose a prompt that relates to the genre you’ve chosen.

**Fiction or Non-Fiction**

- **1** Record what happened as you read the text- What did you remember, think, question, or feel?
- **2** What did you see happening in the text? You may paraphrase, or retell, it in your own words.
- **3** Upon what did you focus most intently as you read-what word, phrase, image, or idea? Why do you think this is?
- **4** How did your understanding of the text or your feelings about it change over the course of your reading? What might have been the cause of this change?
- **5** How did you think about the text- did you analyze it, examine your own associations and memories, react to the observations of others, or something else?
- **6** What was the most confusing or difficult aspect of the text? Explain how this affected your reading and how you dealt with it.
- **7** Choose a passage that you find particularly beautiful or powerful. What devices (imagery, figurative language, etc.) did the author use to make an impact on the reader?
- **8** If the author/were here, what would you say or ask him or her? Why?
- **9** Evaluate whether the title is fitting, or appropriate for this text. Explain.

**Fiction**

- **10** Describe the setting. Create a new setting that you think would be more appropriate for the novel and explain why it is more fitting, or appropriate.
- **11** What other literary work (novel, play, poem, short story, film) does this text call to mind? What is the connection you see between the two?
12 What is the most important conflict, or problem, in this text? How is the main character affected by it? Explain.

13 Describe the main character. Remember to use adjectives, descriptive words, and to support your judgment with textual support.

14 Which character in the story would you most like to be friends with and why?

15 Choose a character that reminds you of someone you know. Explain their similarities.

16 Become one of the characters and write a letter to another character in the text. Be sure to include references to conflict, character actions/words, other characters, or themes, et cetera.

17 Compose a diary entry from the perspective of one of the characters. Be sure to include references to conflict, character actions/words, other characters, or themes, et cetera.

18 Which character changes the most over the course of the novel? Explain how s/he changes and identify what causes, or provokes the change.

19 Choose a short passage from the text that you find important to the development of character, conflict or theme. Explain why it is important.

20 What do you hear this writer saying about human nature, or people in general?

21 Create a comic strip based on a chapter or a chunk of reading.

22 Did you like how the story/novel ended? Explain why and discuss what you might have done differently.

**Non-Fiction**

23 What is the purpose of the accompanying visual elements (graphics, charts, graphs, or images)? Please explain your thinking.

24 Why do you think the author wrote this article or book? Explain with support.

25 What did you learn from this selection?

26 How do the ideas in this selection relate to what you know about this topic?

27 Are the ideas in this selection important? Why or why not?

28 How effectively did the author communicate his or her ideas?

29 What was the author's purpose in writing this selection? How do you know?

30 Which term is most important in understanding the key ideas in this article?

31 What do you think the writer wants his/her readers to think and/or do after reading this piece?
Rubric

Response is clearly labeled (title, the date, prompt #) 1 point

The topic sentence includes… 5 points
- Clear reference to the author, title, and genre
- A restatement of the question (TTQA)
- A brief, but purposeful statement of the main idea you will develop and support.

The response is well-supported and fully developed; it contains… 15 points
- At least two specific textual references.
- Explanation of how each piece of evidence relates to the topic.
- Your reasoning, thinking, connections, conclusions.
- A complete page of writing

Writing is clear and easily understood. Spelling, grammar and mechanical errors do not 4 points
cloud the reader’s understanding.