

## Grading for Journals (Genre and Textbook)

This is a reader response journal. Some reading theorists believe that the text is incomplete in and of itself, that a text is made complete by what a reader brings to it. What do you bring to the text? What connections are you making?

Your journals are meant to show off your thinking skills. I often call journals “connections journals” because I am particularly interested in the connections students make between their multiple readings, their personal experiences, and their learning from other courses and from life.

Grading journals is very difficult and can be rather subjective but I have come up with some criteria<sup>1</sup> that will guide me in the grading process:

Criteria	5 points	3 points	1 point	Score
Depth of thought	Shows multiple insights	Shows appropriate analysis, but lacks insight	Analysis incorrect or missing; no insight	X 2 = _____
Critical thinking	Demonstrates understanding of hidden or subtle issues	Demonstrates general understanding; logic needs expanding	Fails to demonstrate critical thinking strategies	X 2 = _____
Personal reflections	Connects ideas and thoughts to personal life and to other reading and materials	Connections need further explanation or justification	Lack of connection to personal life	X 3 = _____
Grammar, punctuation, spelling	Proper grammar, punctuation, spelling	Noticeable errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling	Major errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling	X 1 = _____
<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>A=36-40</b>	<b>B=32-35</b>	<b>C=28-31</b>	<b>_____/40</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Criteria taken from <http://captain.park.edu/facultydevelopment/journals.htm> and modified for this course