

2010-2011 English 11 Word Journals

What are word journals? You are encouraged to write down words you come into contact with that are unfamiliar to you. You may hear such words in conversations with others, on the news, in television programs, or on the radio. You may read such words in your assignments or outside reading (newspapers, magazines, Internet articles, installation instructions, recipes, etc.). How many times have you heard a word but were unsure of its true meaning? By writing these words down, looking them up in a dictionary, and learning the true definitions, you not only expand your knowledge by understanding what the word means, but also become a more literate citizen ready to face the “real world.”

Once a month, you will be required to hand in a “Word Journal.” Your journal will contain 8 words that you have looked up, along with their definitions and part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb); if the word has more than one definition, underline or highlight the way the word was used when you heard/read it. Also include the source (conversation, television news, magazine article, etc.). Use a collegiate dictionary when looking up definitions. Your word journal should be neatly handwritten on looseleaf paper; word journals may NOT be typewritten. Do not copy words from other students (this is plagiarism and a violation of the honor code), use words from your Literature Word Bubbles, simply look up words in the dictionary, or use vocabulary words from other assignments/subjects. Words used in lectures by other teachers are okay to use.

For instance, suppose I learn through a conversation with my cousin that she receives a weekly stipend. From the use of the word stipend, I comprehend that my cousin receives something weekly, but I am unsure of what exactly stipend means, even though I have heard the word numerous times. My “Word Journal” looks like this:

sti-pend: noun. 1. a periodic payment, esp. a scholarship or fellowship allowance granted to a student. 2. fixed or regular pay; salary. (source: conversation).

Since I know my cousin works and does not go to school, I underline the second definition because she used stipend in that context.

Your “Word Journals” count towards your homework grade, and will be due at the beginning of class according to the following schedule (no early or late credit for word journals!)

Monday, September 27
Monday, October 25
Monday, November 29
Monday, December 20
Wednesday, January 19

Monday, February 28
Monday, March 28
Wednesday, April 27
Monday, May 23

Copy these dates in your planner NOW! You will not be reminded about them, as this is also a year-long lesson in responsibility! Remember, **NO LATE CREDIT for word journals!**

You are expected to work independently on your “Word Journals” outside of class. Each word journal is worth 40 points. The assessment on the back will be used to determine your grade for each Word Journal.

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(1=lowest, 5=highest for each category).

Completeness: The assignment is complete and handed in on time (it contains several definitions for the word; the student highlighted/underlined the context in which they heard/read the word); the assignment is neatly printed or typed. 2 4 6 8 10

Source: The assignment contains the sources for each word. 2 4 6 8 10

Difficulty: The words selected for the journal are accurately chosen and are words the student may actually have come into contact with and not known (i.e. *dog* versus *subliminal* or *beautiful* versus *bequeath*). 2 4 6 8 10

Originality: The words selected are original and do not appear on anyone else's journal; the words are not part of another subject vocabulary assignment or from the vocabulary workbook. 2 4 6 8 10

Total Score: _____/40

Your "Word Journals" are an excellent and easy way for you to get high homework assignment grades, as well as to make you more knowledgeable and responsible. Have fun and start writing down your words!