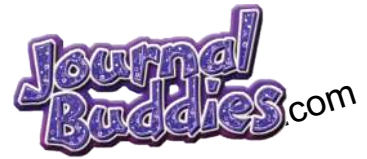


How to Write a Journal Entry

Lesson Plan



Journals are a common supplement to many subject areas and curriculums, but some students don't know how to approach this assignment. Help your students learn to express themselves creatively and to begin to enjoy the writing process.

Learning Objectives

Students will explore writing prompts and make selections for their own journal entries. They will learn the fundamentals of crafting an effective journal entry.

Materials Needed:

- List of writing prompts that are appropriate for the grade level.
- Pens or pencils
- Coloring supplies, such as markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- A notebook

Key Terms:

- Journaling
- Elementary Journal Prompts

Introduction (10 Minutes)

Ask the students to gather in the classroom meeting space.

Show them an example of a journal, and read a journal entry.

Introduce the list of writing prompts to the students, and encourage them to read over the prompts so that they can identify a favorite selection.

Teacher Modeling and Instructional Time (10 Minutes)

Discuss the concept of journaling with students. Ask them if they have ever written a journal entry before. Talk about their favorite writing topics.

Have the students make suggestions for their own journal topics and ideas.

Write a quick journal entry on the board, and show them how an illustration can accompany a journal entry.

Guided Practice (10 Minutes)

Pass out the journal writing worksheets to the students.

Pass out the list of prompts.

Remind students to choose their favorite prompt and to draw an illustration to accompany the journal entry.

Independent Working Time (10 Minutes)

As students begin writing their journal entries, walk around the room and monitor their progress. Talk with students about which entry they choose, and how they are going to write about that particular prompt. Answer questions as needed.

Consider playing quiet classical music in the background to help students feel both calm and focused as they write.

Remind students as you circulate that they should be incorporating detail into both their writing and their drawings.

Differentiation

To adapt this lesson plan to meet the needs of your own classroom, consider encouraging students to read their journal entries aloud after they have finished writing them. This gives an opportunity for students to receive instant feedback and to experience the peer review process.

For older students, eliminate the illustration process and instead focus on having them write longer, more detailed journal entries.

Review and Assessment (5 Minutes)

Encourage students to share snippets of their journal entries with the class. They may prefer to read what they wrote, or they may want to describe the picture that they drew.

Ask questions about the entries and engage in discussion regarding their journal topics. Offer constructive feedback to those who share their work.

Closing (5 Minutes)

In conclusion, provide the students with several extra journal sheets that they can take home. Encourage them to complete at least 2-3 journal entries at home using the list of prompts provided. They should return those completed journal entries back to school within a week in order to receive full credit for the assignment.

Journal Entry Text for Worksheet

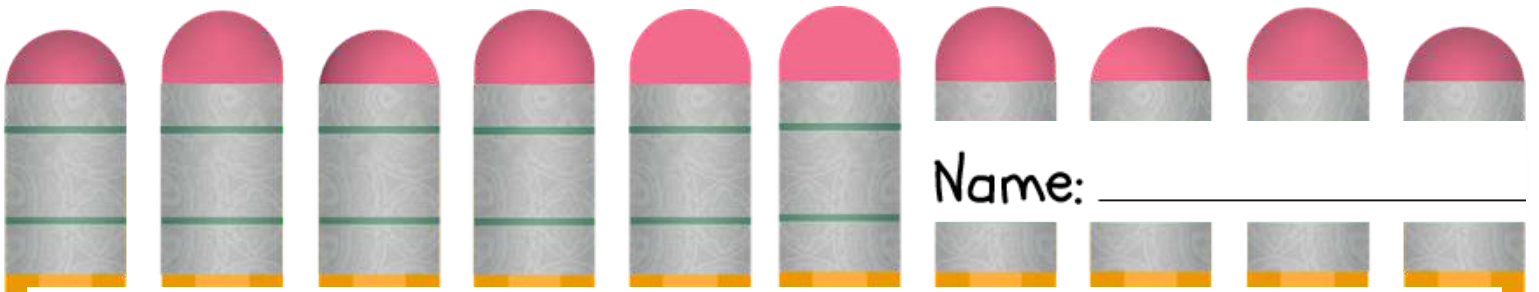
Write out the prompt that you wish to use for this journal entry:

Don't forget to illustrate your journal entry. Draw your illustration here:

Now, it's time to start writing. Here's where your journal entry should begin:

35 Writing Ideas for Kids

1. The best thing to do on a snow day
2. If I was in the circus, I would _____
3. The best place to play in my neighborhood
4. When I grow up
5. The most important thing I learned in kindergarten
6. Inside my backpack
7. If I could rename 10 different crayon colors
8. If I could be any animal, I would be...
9. Riding on Santa's sleigh
10. If I were a sprinkle, I would go on _____ dessert
11. Running through the forest
12. Becoming tiny and exploring your bedroom
13. Living in an igloo
14. The best kinds of bugs
15. What makes a good tree house
16. Exploring a castle
17. Popping out of a toaster
18. If I could create a new creature...
19. My pets are like my family because...
20. Day at the beach
21. Living in candy land
22. My favorite dessert is...
23. My favorite thing to play at recess
24. If I could learn a new language
25. The best day of the week
26. If I could take any animal on a walk in the park...
27. The greatest present I ever received
28. My favorite game to play when I was younger
29. My hero
30. What I want to be for Halloween
31. I was proud when I _____
32. My favorite season
33. One day when I went to the park
34. I wish I knew more about _____
35. Something that is important to my family
36. My favorite board game

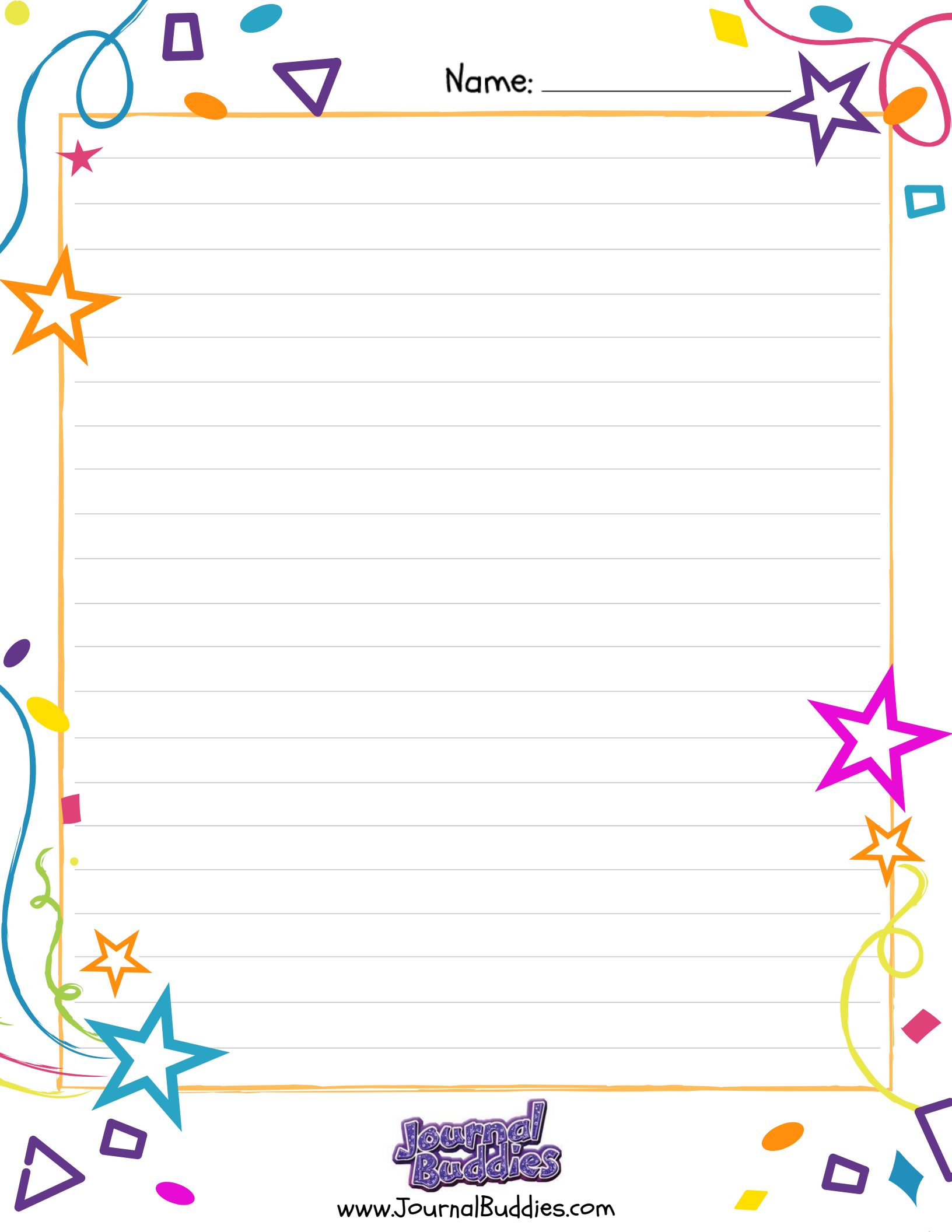


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