

**IB American Studies**  
**English Journal Guidelines 2016-2017**

**Purpose:** Keep in mind that the purpose of the journals prepares us, in many ways, for each of the IB Internal Assessments, including the Written Assignment, the IOC, the Paper 1 commentary on an “unseen” passage and the Paper 2 comparison/contrast essay on the Part III works. Bottom line: if you are thorough and create quality journal responses, you will do well on your Internal Assessments in IB 11 and 12. The quality of your journal work is paramount to your success in the IB Literature program at Skyline.

**Process:** For each of the major works we will study in class, I will post a schedule for each reading assignment and corresponding journal entry on my website. Each reading assignment may or may not come with a journal assignment, at my discretion. Journal assignments may be modified, added, or removed as I see fit or depending on class need. Each journal assignment must be completed in your composition notebook that is specifically for English class. Just because there is a day without a journal assignment does not mean it is a free pass to not read the material. Be ready for a reading quiz, because they can come at any time on any day.

**Number of Journals:** Generally, you will have 4-8 required journals for each work studied, depending on the length of the work and the depth we will study each work in class. The expectation is that each journal will be done on time and that you will put in the level of effort required to answer the question and/or complete the required task successfully. Stamps will be given for work completed on time and journals will be checked for completion the day each assignment is due.

**Assessment:** At the end of each work, the journal is due for assessment. I will grade **ONE** entry for content and the rest for completion with each work. Sometimes, you will be able to choose which entry I will grade. Other times, I will choose the entry that will be graded. Journal entries will be stamped for completion the day they are due. *If you are absent the day an assignment is due or the journal is turned in, it is up to you to find me the next day to receive credit for your completed assignments.* The journal that is graded for content will be placed in the Culminating category out of 10 points. The other journal grades that are checked for completion will be placed in the Process category of the grade book, worth 10 points each. If you do not have your journal done on time the day it is due, you will not receive a stamp for the day. However, you can still submit your journal if you choose to complete the assignment for 50% credit when journals are due.

**Daily Expectations:** It is expected that journals will be brought to class completed on a daily basis. On any given day, I may ask you or a group of you to present your journal entries to the class, whether you have finished the required homework or not. Other times, you will be asked to take the activity that you completed in your journal and use it for an in-class timed writing activity or to begin discussion. It is also possible that the journals will be used for commentary practice in preparation for the IOC you must tackle next year. It is up to you to come to class prepared and to put quality responses in their journals. Failure to bring your journal to class will cause you to lose participation points, as your journal demonstrates your successful ability to follow directions, complete your homework, and participate in classroom learning activities.

**Types of Journals & Expectations:** There are 5 types of journals that I may ask you to do. On each given reading assignment per work that we study in class, you will see one of the following labels where there is a journal assignment:

- **Notes & Quotes**-When you see this label, your task is to address the question I am asking you on the assignment sheet, but you are not expected to answer in complete sentences. You may use listing, bullet points, T-charts, pictures, and fragments to address your thoughts as you see fit. You are expected to write down at least 5 important quotations from your section of the reading assignment that assist you in answering the question you have been asked and include how you might analyze the quotes you have selected if you had to write about these quotes. 2-3 pages handwritten in length.
- **Color Marking**- (See details below for more color marking info) When you see color marking, you will need to go to my website and print out the passage that I have chosen for you for this specific assignment. We will be taking a look through a microscope at our passage to better understand the writer's techniques, or conventions, whether they are narrative or poetic. The process applies to all passages, whether they be prose or poetry. Mark with a different color each type of image/image pattern/motif/other literary devices or techniques that you notice at work in the text. You must include a key with a box around it on the top right of your page. Look for things like images, motifs, progressions of images/motifs, POV, syntax, diction, tone/mood, etc. As you practice this skill, you will become better at it. Once you have your passage color marked and categorized, select three categories you have created that you think are the most important to understanding the passage, and write a detailed paragraph for each analyzing how your category is significant to understanding the work and the passage itself. Remember to glue or tape your color marked passage into your journal and below it or on the next page, begin writing about your 3 categories in depth. Use complete sentences for your analysis and include text evidence from your passage correctly cited in MLA format. 2-3 pages handwritten in length not counting your color marking page.
- **Commentary**- For the commentary, I will generally ask you a question about a key convention used by the author of the work, your task will be to create a strong Dominant Effect (similar to a thesis statement) and explain how that convention or technique is used by the author in the work to create meaning or an overall effect on the reader and use at least 3 pieces of text evidence and analysis to support your Dominant Effect. This journal response will be 2-3 handwritten pages in length with MLA in-text citations for text evidence. Begin your journal with your Dominant Effect and go from there instead of worrying about a full introductory paragraph.
- **Reader Response**- I will ask you an open-ended question and you will express your thoughts on the matter using evidence to support your claims. For narrative responses, do not deal with surface, obvious generalities/plot; move to the level of inference/conclusion with each response. Include not only observations but also inferences/insights about those observations. Always *assert* and *argue*! This response will be 2-3 pages handwritten in length with MLA in-text citations for your text evidence. Focus on the meaning or the effect on the reader that is created by the author in the work.
- **Free Choice**- For this type of journal, it will be your responsibility to craft your own question and thoroughly answer your question with evidence from the text. Again, dig beyond surface level plot and explore different ideas. Yes or no questions will not get you what you need on this assignment. Dig deeper! Make inferences and share insights, delve deeper into possible themes that are emerging or particular elements of author's craft that strike you.
- **Other**-Sometimes, I may ask you to draw or use another nontraditional form of response. In this case, I will say "other" and specifically let you know what you are expected to do in the journal entry.

Continue reading...

## More on Color Marking...

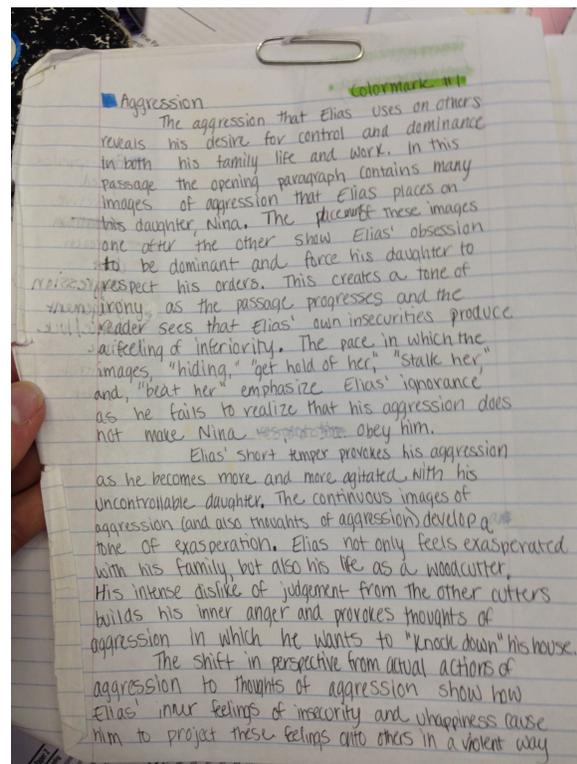
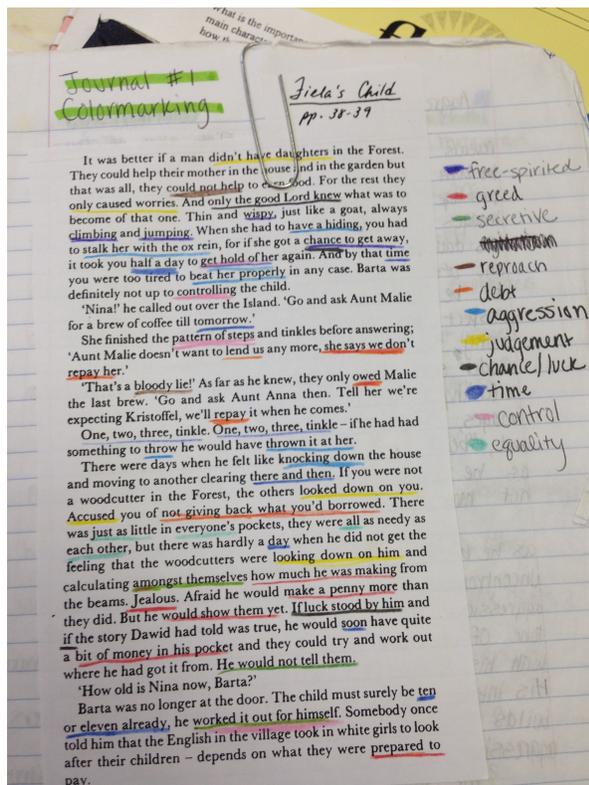
### Important Terms Defined

- **Image**- A word (or more than one word) appealing to at least one of our senses that evokes a picture in the mind of the reader. VISUAL is our strongest sense in terms of image/imagery.
- **Imagery**- visually descriptive sensory language to create "mental pictures" for the reader
- **Motif**- recurring elements (image, pattern, topics) ie. vengeance, cycles, flowers
- **Symbol**-something that stands for something else beyond the surface ie. Rose=passion/love
- **Theme**- recurring ideas ie. Subjugation/demonization of women, duality of human nature, inevitable corruption of man, etc.

### Key Things to Ask Yourself Once You've Color Marked:

- Is one color predominant? Why?
- Is there some logical progression of imagery/motifs, from one type to another? Why?
- Is the progression illogical? Why?
- How do the imagery/motifs reinforce and/or illustrate the content of the passage? (or, if you prefer, what is the relationship of the scene to the imagery/motifs used to describe it?)
- Imagery reinforces content by giving it **emphasis**, by making it **fresh** (an unusual or creative use of imagery), and/or by adding **irony** (imagery appears to contradict the content or describe it in terms of its opposite qualities)
- Does the marked material create a specific tone or mood? (Remember, tone= author's attitude toward the subject of the writing and mood= reader's reaction/atmosphere created by the author)
- Based on your color marking, you will choose three key categories that you have color marked predominantly in the passage and write about the connections or inferences that you can make relating that category with the overall meaning of the text and the author's choice to include it.

### Example for Color Marking & Analysis:



**A Warning About Outside Sources:** Outside sources are not allowed for use in the journals unless you are specifically instructed to do research. Copying information from Sparknotes or other similar “help” sites like Schmoop will result in an automatic “F” for that journal entry and you will be cited for an academic integrity violation. The journals are for learning and if you are just copying ideas from Sparknotes, then you are not learning anything besides how to improve your handwriting.

Your journal is your friend! Take it seriously, do the best you can, and you will do well in my class! If you choose to forego the journal assignments, or do not produce work of quality, this course will be very difficult for you.