

North Montco Technical Career Center

Checklist of Reminders When Journaling and Using Reflective Writing In Your Class

- Journal activities differ from essays, reports and themes.
- Journal activities can be short and exploratory.
- Journals are often written for an audience other than the teacher.
- The purpose of the writing activity is to reflect on content one has learned.
- Journals should enhance the reading and link it to personal connections of the reader, “what this reading means to me”.
- Keep it simple; vary the audience as much as possible.
- Don’t grade every single journal, students can use feedback forms like DR/TA or the shorter prediction, discussion, reflection journals presented in this workshop.
- Have students read and discuss their work with a partner or other small group of students.
- Whole class discussion aids in clarifying student understanding of the text.
- Use the journals as review, platforms for discussion, and possible study guides for chapter or unit review before giving an assessment.