



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Journal Topics

Write 200 words for each journal topic. Include the answer to your questions in the essay. Paragraph form with an introduction, body and conclusion.

October 7 - Moving Assembly Line at Ford, October 7, 1913

1. Goal: Understand point of view

On this day in history, the time to build a Model-T was cut from 12 ½ hours to 6 when an assembly line was used successfully for the first time to assemble the chassis. Imagine you are present at Henry Ford's Highland Park factory on this day. Write about what you are thinking using the first-person point of view. Use the words I, me, my, and mine to show first-person point of view. Plan your writing below.

1. List three things you see.
  2. What do you think about the things you see?
  3. How do you feel?
  4. Describe what happens to you.
- Now you are ready to write your first-person narrative.

October 8 - J. Frank Duryea's Birthday

2. Goal: Explain a quotation

"If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside."

--Robert X. Cringely, InfoWorld Magazine

Charles and Frank Duryea were the first Americans to build a successful automobile, and the first to incorporate an American business for the express purpose of building automobiles for sale to the public. On this day that we remember Frank's birthday, consider the quote from InfoWorld Magazine above. Write an essay in which you explain this quotation. To help you get ready to write, answer the following questions.

1. Rewrite this quotation in your own words.
2. How does the development of the computer compare with the development of the automobile?
3. List five ways the automobile would be different if it had followed the

same development cycle as the computer.  
Now you are ready to write your essay.

### October 10 - Columbus Day

#### 3. Goal: Write about a definition

Christopher Columbus lived during the Age of Discovery. But, what does discovery mean? Write an essay in which you define discovery. Plan your essay below.

1. Brainstorm four things that demonstrate discovery. Underneath each item, explain why it is discovery.
2. Now read your list. What do all these things have in common? (Do not use a form of the word discovery in your answer.)
3. Based on your answers above, write a definition of the word discovery. Now you are ready to write your essay. Your definition is your topic sentence.

### October 10 - Hunter's Moon

#### 4. Goal: Use first-person point of view

October's full moon is called the "Hunter's Moon." It gets its name from the hunters who used this time of year to prepare for the long winter ahead by filling their larders with meat. Imagine you are one of those hunters, padding through the forest on a moonlit night. Write a journal entry telling all about the things you see and do. To help you get ready to write, answer the following questions.

1. Where are you that night? Describe the setting.
2. What three things do you do that night?
3. What three things do you see that night?
4. What do you like most about your night in the forest?
5. What do you like least about your night in the forest?
6. How do you feel about your night?

Now you are ready to write your journal entry.

### October 11 - *Apollo 7* Launched, 1968

## 5. Goal: Use first-person point of view

During this first manned mission, the first live television broadcast transmitted. Imagine you are present on this historic mission. Write a journal entry about your travels. To help you get ready to write, plan your journal entry below.

1. Where are you that day? Describe the setting.
2. What three things do you do that day?
3. What three things do you see that day?
4. What do you like most about your day?
5. What do you like least about your day?
6. How do you feel about your day?

Now you are ready to write your journal entry.

## October 12 - Destiny Day

### 6. Goal: Write about a definition

Many people spend many hours pondering their destiny. What exactly is destiny? Write an essay in which you define destiny. Plan your essay below.

1. Brainstorm four things that demonstrate destiny. Underneath each item, explain why it is destiny.
2. Now read your list. What do all these things have in common? (Do not use a form of the word destiny in your answer.)
3. Based on your answers above, write a definition of the word destiny.

Now you are ready to write your essay. Your definition is your topic sentence.

## October 12 - 1915 British Nurse Executed in WWI

### 7. Goal: Use first-person point of view

On this day in history a British nurse was sent to the firing squad by the Germans after they convicted her of helping Allied soldiers escape to Holland. Imagine you are present on this infamous day. Write a journal entry describing what you did. To help you get ready to write, answer the following questions.

1. Where are you that day? Describe the setting.

2. What three things do you do that day?
  3. What three things do you see that day?
  4. What do you like most about your day?
  5. What do you like least about your day?
  6. How do you feel about your day?
- Now you are ready to write your journal entry.

## October 13 - National Pet Peeve Week

### 8. Goal: Explain an abstract word

An abstract word is a word that is difficult to define. Write an essay in which you explain what pet peeve means. Complete the items below to help plan your essay.

1. What do you think of when you say pet peeve?
2. Explain a time when you demonstrated the quality that pet peeve expresses (a time when you experienced a pet peeve).
3. Brainstorm some words and phrases that mean the same thing as pet peeve.
4. Who or what is the best example of displaying the quality of pet peeve for you? Explain.
5. Based on your answers to the questions above, write a definition for pet peeve. (Do not use the dictionary.)

## October 13 - Whitehouse Cornerstone Laid, 1792

### 9. Goal: Write a journal entry

President George Washington chose the site; however, John Adams and his wife would be the first to occupy the executive mansion. In her journal, his wife, Abigail, wrote about their new home: "I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house, and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but wise men ever rule under this roof!" Imagine you are living in 1792, when the building began. Write a journal entry about this important day in history as if you were there when it all happened. To help you get ready to write, plan your journal entry below.

1. Where are you that day? Describe the setting.
2. How was this day just like any other day?
3. How was this day different from any other day?
4. What three things do you see this day?

