

Joe Student
ESL 21A Journal 1
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Journal Assignment #1: Where Do People Get their News?

When you write a journal assignment, you should always have a title. Make sure it matches the assignment's name. Also, make sure that you have typed your full name, assignment name, and date in the top left hand corner of the page. You must type your name – not hand-write it. Be sure to use #12 font. Those are formatting issues.

Many students often ask me how long a journal should be. That is not an easy question to answer because I do not like to prescribe a certain number of sentences or words. However, I have noticed that sometimes students write very little, and in my mind, they do not get much out of the assignment. These assignments are designed to help you think critically and thoughtfully and to sometimes analyze data. Your instructor is genuinely interested in what you think and what you have to say. So, please, give the assignment some time and use this as an opportunity to express yourself and practice your English. In general, I would expect a journal to at least fill up an entire page.

Being able to type up a journal really gives you a fantastic opportunity to try out new vocabulary from the unit and let Microsoft Word help you edit your writing. We have new vocabulary words in each unit. Extra practice with these words is done online at www.qonlinepractice.com and sometimes in class. A journal offers you a nice venue to practice using these words in the context of an assignment. Go for it! Take some risks with new vocabulary! Also, the spell check and grammar check capabilities of Word will help you edit your writing. These are special tools that you do not have access to when you are writing in class. I sincerely hope you enjoy writing your journal assignments!