

JOURNAL ENTRY #1:

AMERICAN DREAM - Choose from one of these 3 options to focus on:

1. The "American Dream"
2. America was, is, will be...
3. What is uniquely "American"?

JOURNAL ENTRY #2:

PERSONAL OPTION - Choose from the myriad of options listed on the back of this handout.

JOURNAL ENTRY #3:

LIBERTY, EQUALITY & INDEPENDENCE

Choose one of the following quotes to respond to in writing and visually. Try to synthesize the themes of the Giver, ideas behind the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution and a perfect society as you reflect on these quotes.

- "When a society tries to ensure equality in every aspect (*law, economic, material, opportunity*) it ultimately destroys liberty."
- "Things are not always entirely what they seem." (*perception of equality and liberty*)
- "We are often ignorant of our ignorance." (*perception of our independence*)
- "Like fish who are unconscious of the water that envelops them, we are often unaware of the constraints imposed on our thinking by the social forces surrounding us." (*perception of liberty, equality and independence and/or oppression, inequality and dependence*)
- "It's not easy to achieve freedom without chaos."
- "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."
- "Equality does not mean sameness but sameness ensures equality."
- "The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave."
- "Most people want security in this world not liberty."

JOURNAL ENTRY #4:

REMEMBERING (THEME RELATED TO *THE GIVER*) - The theme of this journal entry is **REMEMBERING**. You can focus on anything as long as it's in the past and you can explain its significance. You can draw from your personal history, societal history, world history, etc. Maybe you can find inspiration from the following quotes:

"Everybody needs his memories. They keep the wolf of insignificance from the door." - S. Bellow

"Memory is a complicated thing, a relative to truth, but not its twin." - B. Kingsolver

"To look backward for awhile is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it the more fit for its prime function of looking forward." - M. Barber

JOURNAL ENTRY #5:

REASONS FOR WAR - Why do people fight? What leads to fighting? Are there ever any positive outcomes/results/accomplishments from fighting? What ultimately stops the fighting? What could've prevented it from ever beginning? What are reasons for war? What are reasons for soldiers to fight in war?

JOURNAL ENTRY #6:

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL POETRY MONTH - Write down one of your favorite poems (at least 2 stanzas). Be sure to include the title of the poem and the poet's name. Then write about what attracts you to the poem and what you appreciate about it (at least 1 paragraph).

JOURNAL ENTRY #7:

LEARNING IN OTHER SUBJECT AREAS - This entry will focus on another area of learning during your school day this year. Focus on an academic subject other than Language Arts and Social Studies and highlight/explain/assess the learning experience (by using art). You can give attention to multiple areas of study or you can focus on just one subject.

JOURNAL ENTRY #8:

HERO'S JOURNEY - Find an example of a hero's journey in literature, a movie, or your own life. Depict the journey with visuals and writing and show at least six specific steps of the hero's journey. THEN, share your point of view/opinion about the mono-myth and if the "hero" is still relevant in today's culture and society.

JOURNAL ENTRY #9:

LETTER TO PAST AND FUTURE SELF - This week's entry involves writing two letters to yourself. The first letter will be addressed to your 5th grade self just before middle school. Your second letter will be addressed to your 20 year self. What advice would you give your younger self about middle school knowing what you do now? What hopes, goals, fears and wishes do you have for your future self after high school? Each letter will be in two separate envelopes in your journal.

JOURNAL ENTRY #10:

WHAT IS THE QUESTION TO THIS ANSWER? - It's time to do a little independent research and before you start searching for answers you need to develop some key driving and essential questions that will lead your inquiry. You will first choose a minimum of one significant person or event in U.S. History, **LISTED ON THE BACK OF THIS PAPER**. Then develop at least 5 pre-research questions, 3 informed questions (research in progress) and 3 post-research questions. Your journal entry will include the questions, artistic processing (visuals) and answers to at least 7 of your questions in paragraph form.

JOURNAL ENTRY #11:

REFLECTIONS - How did I use art to work through an idea? How well did I use art to show the things I've learned? How did I use art to help me brainstorm new ideas/concepts and process/enhance my learning? How has my relationship with art changed over the course of the year? Looking forward - How will I personally integrate art and creative processing in my learning? How do I feel about my Creative Response Journal?