

ARCHAEOLOGY

JOURNAL WRITING 1.1

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. The dream of Heinrich Schliemann was to discover and excavate the once legendary city of Troy, site of the great battle described by Homer. His dream inspired him to learn new languages, to travel the world, and even to take risks with his life. Dreams can inspire us to study, to work, to travel, to explore—to do many things. What dreams do you have? Write about a dream that has inspired you, an aspiration you have had to do something special with your life. How have you pursued that dream? And if you have not followed your dream, why not?
2. Characters such as King Agamemnon or the warrior Achilles are more than just fictional figures in a fantastic story; they become heroes. When Alexander the Great himself crossed the water from Greece to Turkey to begin his conquests, he made his army wait while he looked for the tomb of Achilles so that he, Alexander, could honor the great hero of Troy. How would you define the word “hero?” What are the qualities or abilities of a hero, in your opinion? Is there a particular way that people in your home culture define what it means to be a hero? Have you ever had a hero of your own, someone you deeply admire and wish to emulate? Begin by writing a list of people—real or fictional—whom you admire and perhaps wish to emulate. Then write a journal entry about that hero and how they have inspired you.
3. The story of Troy belongs to a long and very colorful collection of myths that stem from Greek civilization. In ancient Greece, people worshipped many gods and they told and retold stories about those gods and the heroes of old. Such stories are not just entertaining; they often teach people important lessons about life and worship and society and the challenges we face as human beings. Can you think of any stories like that? Perhaps from your own culture? Write a story you are familiar with about heroes or gods. At the end of the story, describe the lesson that you think people are supposed to learn from that story.



Statue of the Greek god Dionysus from the palace of Herrenchiemsee, Germany

ARCHAEOLOGY

JOURNAL WRITING 1.2

The things that people make and which archaeologists excavate are called artifacts. Artifacts are not just objects; they tell us something about the cultures that made them—about their beliefs, traditions, and rituals. Each of these images depicts an artifact from a different culture. Choose three of them and write a description. What are they? Who do you think made them? What was their purpose?



LITERATURE

JOURNAL WRITING 2.1

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. We all change with time, wouldn't you say? We experience more than just physical changes; we change inside—our characters. At least, some people believe so. Do you think it's true? Start this writing assignment by making a list of at least ten things that can change in a person's life.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 7) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 8) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 9) _____ |
| 5) _____ | 10) _____ |

Now choose at least three of these things and write about how they have changed in YOUR life.

2. Cities can change as well, as do countries. In the story, Bob left New York and returned 20 years later to find a beloved restaurant closed down. Perhaps you have seen changes in your own home town or your native country. Describe how a place you know well has changed over time. What kinds of changes have occurred? Have these changes improved the place you are describing or made it worse? How have these changes affected your feelings about the place? Did you enjoy living there before? Would you still want to live there now?
3. Bob and Jimmy agreed to meet after 20 years because they believed that would be enough time for at least one of them to make his fortune—to get rich. Really? Twenty years? Do you think you'll be rich in 20 years? Assuming you might want to be rich someday, describe what you think is the best way to accomplish this goal. What is your plan for making your fortune? Is it more like Jimmy's life or Bob's? And once you've got your fortune, what do you plan to do with it? If you could hit it big, how would you spend your money?
4. Look at the following words from the story "After Twenty Years." Choose five of these words and write about a person, condition, or situation that matches or illustrates the word.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1) absurd | 8) guardian |
| 2) chilly | 9) impressive |
| 3) despair | 10) intricate |
| 4) destiny | 11) keen |
| 5) dismal | 12) sensible |
| 6) egotism | 13) suffer |
| 7) fortune | 14) swagger |

LITERATURE

JOURNAL WRITING 2.2

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

- POEMS:** Poetry may seem like a difficult thing to write, but we are all capable of composing poems. Even if you have never done it before, I'd like you to give it a try now. Let's start with something simple—colors and feelings.

<i>red</i>		<i>green</i>		<i>blue</i>
	<i>yellow</i>		<i>white</i>	
<i>black</i>		<i>pink</i>		<i>orange</i>
	<i>brown</i>		<i>happy</i>	
<i>sad</i>		<i>afraid</i>		<i>angry</i>
	<i>nervous</i>		<i>excited</i>	
<i>suspicious</i>		<i>desperate</i>		<i>hopeful</i>

Choose any color or feeling you want and write a poem about it. However, you cannot use the name of the color or feeling in your poem. Instead, describe it—its feeling, its texture, its qualities, its effect on you. For example, what color do you think I am describing here:

*The dome of the sky
spreads warmly above
hovering over me
watching my days*

After you have composed your first poem, do the same thing with two more colors or feelings. When you are finished, share your poems with your peer group and see if they can guess what colors or feelings you have described.

- STORY:** For this writing assignment, I want you to compose a short story. You can choose whatever theme you want for your story, but if it helps you to decide, maybe you should write about the kind of themes we have been reading about in this chapter. Here are some common themes in literature. Look through them, think about them. If any of them seem interesting to you, circle them.

<i>identity</i>		<i>change</i>		<i>humor</i>
	<i>friendship</i>		<i>shame</i>	
<i>death</i>		<i>fear</i>		<i>love</i>
	<i>family</i>		<i>pride</i>	
<i>childhood</i>		<i>old age</i>		<i>betrayal</i>
	<i>journey</i>		<i>courage</i>	
<i>loss</i>		<i>desire</i>		<i>culture</i>

Find a theme that works for you. If you do not like any of these, then choose your own. Think about the story you want to tell. Create at least two characters for your story, and write about something that happens to them. In your story, you must include dialogue.

MYTHOLOGY

JOURNAL WRITING 3.1

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

- One of the central issues that comes up in Zuni myths is the relationship between humans and the earth, including our ties with other people and animals and the environment itself. The Zuni believed that we as individuals can become quite ill and possibly die if we lose harmony between ourselves and the world of nature. What do you think about this idea? What does the world mean to you? How would you describe your relationship to the natural world? Can you identify things that you do that actually help or harm the world around you? Complete the following table with examples of what you do to the world around you. Then write about these things.

how I help the world	how I harm the world

- In English-speaking countries, it is quite common that children learn about myths as they go through school, perhaps as kids, and even more so later as adults. Classical mythology has long been a favorite interest for western cultures—the myths of ancient Greece and Rome. Have you ever read classical myths? Are you familiar with myths or tales from other cultures, such as your home culture? Do you know any myths well enough to actually tell them? Write two or three myths in your journal.
- For this writing assignment, I’d like you to write your own myth or fable, something along the lines that we have seen with the Zuni—a story about animals. Or about humans and animals. Let’s start by thinking imaginatively about what kind of characters animals could be in your story. Write a list of five animals along with a proper name and a brief description for each one. For example, if you chose to include a wolf in your story, perhaps you could call him “Bora,” and you might describe him as “strong, gray, very hungry.” Once you have finished your list, compose your story.

	animal	name	description
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

MYTHOLOGY

JOURNAL WRITING 3.2

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. Certain civilizations, such as the Greeks and Romans, are often studied in school because people believe that these civilizations did something important—that they made a lasting contribution to our society or even to the world around us. However, people may be less familiar with the contributions and advances made by other cultures, especially distant cultures. Use your own knowledge, your peers, a library, or the Internet to complete the following chart with three different cultures and at least three contributions, inventions, or advances made by each one. When you have finished the chart, choose three of those inventions and describe why you believe they were so important.

<i>CULTURE OR CIVILIZATION</i>		
1.	2.	3.
<i>INVENTIONS OR ADVANCES</i>		

2. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in the United States, many subjects were discussed and argued, including what it means to be a hero. The police officers and firefighters who assisted people after the attacks in New York were often referred to as heroes, while some people countered that they were just doing their jobs. To the ancient Celts, a hero like Cuchulainn had great strength and was able to overpower his enemies and protect his people. There was something superhuman about Cuchulainn, just as there was about Hercules. Superhuman abilities seem to be very popular in the tales and fantasies of many cultures. Just look at how popular comic book heroes like Spiderman and Superman are. Have you ever wished you could possess super powers? What would those powers be? What would you use them for?

3. Love was a very popular theme in ancient myths, just as it is today. Researchers argue that the stories of King Arthur are tied to the ancient Celts, including the love story between the great hero Lancelot and Guinevere, the wife of King Arthur. The stories of knights of medieval Europe often describe them not only with the Celtic qualities of courage and strength found in Cuchulainn, but with the passion of Cuchulainn as well. Do you think you could write such a tale of love and romance? Give it a try. Create your characters, thinking not only of how they look, but also their personalities and strengths and weaknesses. How will they interact? How will they fall in love? And what adventures would they face together?



POLITICAL SCIENCE

JOURNAL WRITING 4.1

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. We began this chapter by considering different types of government and looked more in depth at the origin of democracy. Would democracy be your government of choice? Do you think democracy is the best government for all people? In the chart below, write a few key notes to compare and contrast the pros and cons of democracy along with two other types of government.

<i>democracy</i>		
pros		
cons		

Now write out your analysis of these three types of government in essay form.

2. The aristocracy of ancient Athens strictly controlled the process of enacting new laws. However, the creators of democracy believed that the people themselves should be involved—even directly involved—in legislating. That is, the people should be law-makers. Imagine that you are a legislator. What kind of laws would you choose to enact? Describe your ideal laws. Why are they important to you? What country do you believe needs to have such laws? Who would benefit from them?
3. Not all laws have a positive affect over the people, do they? On 16 January 1919, the United States ratified the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibited the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States...” With the 18th Amendment, it became a crime in the United States to make, sell, or transport alcohol. However, on 5 December 1933, the government passed the 21st Amendment, which repealed the 18th Amendment. Alcohol was again legal in the U.S. What laws have you encountered in the U.S. or in any other country that you believe should be repealed? What was wrong with those laws? Why do you think they were enacted in the first place?

POLITICAL SCIENCE

JOURNAL WRITING 4.2

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. European colonists in the Americas often clashed with the Native American communities they encountered here. For many years, Europeans denied citizenship to the natives of the Americas, perceiving them to be inferior to Europeans in nearly every way. Are there native or indigenous cultures in your home country? Write the names of as many indigenous cultures as you can.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | e. _____ | i. _____ |
| b. _____ | f. _____ | j. _____ |
| c. _____ | g. _____ | k. _____ |
| d. _____ | h. _____ | l. _____ |

What do you know about them? How are native cultures distinct from other cultures? How are native people treated? Are they granted citizenship? Do they continue to speak their own native languages? Write about the interaction of native and non-native cultures in the United States or in your home country.

2. Roger Williams was a devout Christian who believed in the necessity of purifying the Christian Church. However, he also believed that the government should not involve itself in the religious affairs of the people. This secularist separation of church and state was later amended to the Constitution of the United States, but there are still arguments today over the separation of government and church. What do you think about this? Should the government promote a particular religion for the people of a country? Should it encourage people to live a more spiritual or religious life? Should religious instruction and time for prayer be included in schools? Or should there be a strict separation between the religious life of an individual and the non-religious work of governments and schools? Explain your reasoning.
3. The voyage from Europe to the Americas could last 2-3 months and was a very dangerous journey during which many people died. And yet millions of people eventually made that journey to begin a new life. People have left their home countries and come to the colonies and later to the United States for a variety of reasons. Begin this writing assignment by making a list of reasons why people leave their homes and travel to live somewhere else.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Now write about this process of leaving one's home and beginning a new life elsewhere, using yourself as an example. What is this process like? Why did you come here? What challenges have you faced?

BIOLOGY

JOURNAL WRITING 5.1

Earlier we discussed the question of differences between humans and other animals. For this writing assignment, begin by completing the chart below with some relevant differences and/or similarities between humans, dogs, fish, and plants.

<i>humans</i>	<i>dogs</i>	<i>fish</i>	<i>plants</i>

Now use the information in this chart to write a paper that focuses on one of the following themes:

1. How special are we as human beings? What are the qualities or characteristics that you think separate humans from other forms of life? What are humans capable of doing that other animals cannot do? What would you say are the greatest accomplishments of human kind?
2. How are humans part of the animal kingdom? What do we share in common with other mammals, such as dogs or chimps? How are we close to other kinds of animals? Are there any animals that you feel more comfortable with? Are there any animals that you admire? Or fear? Why do you think that is?
3. How does life change? The argument for evolution in living creatures suggests that the origin of all life can be traced back to the simplest single-celled organisms billions of years ago. Can you see anything in humans that might link them to a long process of evolution or change from some other kind of creature?

BIOLOGY

JOURNAL WRITING 5.2

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. While some people might be inclined to think of science as a modern method of learning, scientific study has been with us for as long as humans have taken the time to observe and to manipulate the world around them in order to understand that world. Use whatever resources you need to—your peers, your library, the Internet—to find the names of six scientists from around the world. Write their names below.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ | f. _____ |

Now that you have read a bit about these six people, which one is most interesting to you? Write a paper describing one of these scientists and what he or she accomplished with their studies.

2. While Charles Darwin is best remembered for his scientific studies and his advancement of the theory of evolution, his early education influenced him with a more traditional, religious approach to understanding the world around him. He felt that God provided man with a necessary sense of order and morality. After his voyage on the Beagle, he came to the conclusion that all life—including humans—must evolve. However, he was very hesitant about sharing his views with others, because he knew how deeply they would dislike what he had to say. Choose from one of the following for your journal writing assignment:

- a. Where does your understanding of the world come from? What guides you to see the natural world and the humans who live here in the way that you do? Do you depend on religion to answer questions for you? On some form of spirituality? On science? On your own observations? On the teachings of others that you have learned? Why do you believe the things that you do?
- b. Like Charles Darwin, the Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov was initially educated in theology and was expected to work for the church. However, his later studies convinced him to stay away from religious teachings and depend more on a scientific approach to understanding truth. Have you ever faced such a conflict of belief before? Describe how your views have changed about what is right and true.
- c. Darwin was afraid to tell people he knew about his belief in evolution, including human evolution. Have you ever had to reveal something to others that you were afraid to share? What caused your fear? Were you afraid that people would not like you anymore? Would not trust you? Were you afraid that people would no longer want to be with the person you were becoming?

One very important reason why Charles Darwin eventually shared his beliefs with others and continued to write even about human evolution was that other people encouraged him to do so. Thomas Huxley, for example, urged Darwin to continue his studies and publications because he believed in what Darwin was trying to say. Describe someone who has influenced you by urging you to believe in yourself. What was the result of this encouragement?

ASTRONOMY

JOURNAL WRITING 6.1

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. The essay “Stars of the Ancients” summarizes perspectives of ancient peoples concerning the cosmos, including the views of ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Indians, and Chinese. Of course, the information we have read is very brief. Astronomers and researchers in each of these cultures have gathered far more information about the stars and other celestial bodies. Use whatever resources are available to you—your classmates, a library, the Internet—to expand your understanding of how any ancient culture around the world has viewed the heavens. Write about what you have learned about at least one ancient culture and their knowledge of astronomical phenomena.
2. Imagine that you live long ago, a member of an ancient culture prior to the acquisition of astronomical knowledge. In essence, you are the first astronomer of your culture—a pioneer in the study of the heavens. How would you interpret the things you see in the sky above? Do you think you would have understood the lights in the sky to be stars, like our own sun? Or would you have perceived them to be something else? Gods, perhaps, or spirits? Alien beings or holes in space? It is your job to write a description of the heavens—of the stars, the sun, the moon—and what you write will be used to teach the next generation of children in your culture what they should know about the heavens.
3. As we have read, ancient peoples often used astronomical observations to enhance their understanding of religion or spirituality, or to predict events in their own lives. In many different cultures, astrology is practiced as a means of predicting human events based on a belief that celestial phenomena interact with or affect people on earth. What do you think about this belief? Has it ever been of importance to you? Are you familiar with your astrological sign? With your horoscope? Describe the value of astrology in your home culture or in your own personal life. What does all of that mean to you?
4. The ancient Chinese perceived constellations among clusters of stars and classified them into 28 mansions, representing such concepts as the Heart in the East, the Girl in the North, the Stomach of the West, and the Ghost of the South. Western constellations are often tied to classical Greek or Roman mythology. The constellation of Cassiopeia is named for a queen of great vanity who boasted that she and her daughter were more beautiful than sea nymphs. Her boasting incited the God of the Sea, Poseidon, to punish Cassiopeia. She was bound to a chair in the heavens to forever spin around the night sky. Are you familiar with any constellations? Write the names of several constellations (from any system of constellations in the world) and describe what these constellations are believed to represent.



The constellation of Cassiopeia

ASTRONOMY

JOURNAL WRITING 6.2

Choose from the following options for your journal writing assignment:

1. So much astronomical research has been undertaken by men and women who possessed special skills and knowledge beyond simply what we think of as astronomy. Isaac Newton was a physicist and mathematician, as was Galileo, who was also a philosopher. Aristotle too was a philosopher, but he was also a biologist, naturalist, and linguist among many other things. The knowledge that we gain in diverse fields of study enhances how well we understand ourselves and the world around us. What would you argue are the most important subjects that people today should be required to study? Choose three to five subjects and explain why you think people should learn them.
2. Scientific investigation is clearly an ongoing process. Science is never finished. There is always more for us to learn, but there is also a great deal we thought we knew, but still have to re-examine. I am sure there are “facts” or “truths” that you have been expected to accept because these truths were declared by a religious or social leader, or these facts were promoted by scientists and educators. Have you ever learned that those people were wrong? Describe how this happened. What were you told to believe was true? How did you find out that it was actually wrong? Have you changed how slowly or quickly you learn and accept things because of these false facts, perhaps becoming more skeptical? What sources do you trust the most to provide you with reliable facts?
3. Astronomers have spent centuries studying what they can see in space using more and more elaborate tools and devices. Eventually, humans themselves began flying into space aboard spacecraft. In fact, we now live in an age in which tourist space travel is becoming possible. Is that something you would ever consider—traveling in space? Flying to distant planets? What do you think you will find there? Astronomers have long been open to the idea that there is life on other planets. What do you think alien life would be like? Can you describe them? How would they look? How would they behave? Would they be friendly? Or aggressive?
4. Scientific investigation proceeds—sometimes gradually, sometimes quickly—through a process of developing theories that serve to explain phenomena that we see in and around us. A theory may or may not in fact be true, but it has been tested, and through testing and experimentation, we hope that any given theory will be reliable—that we can depend on these theories to explain things and to help us take the next steps in research and learning. Newton presented his theory that gravity is a force, depending on mass, that not only holds us on the surface of the earth, but which also keeps the earth revolving around the sun. And he was right. As students, we are exposed to any number of theories to explain the planets, the sun, the moon, and us.
 - a. Describe a theory that you have learned about. What does this theory say? How does it explain the world for you? Do you have any doubts about this theory? Do most people accept it as true?
 - b. There are always more questions to ask about us and the world and the universe around us. Have you ever come up with your own explanations? Your own theories? Can you share how you have tried to understand or explain the world around you or how life works?