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# JOURNAL WRITING

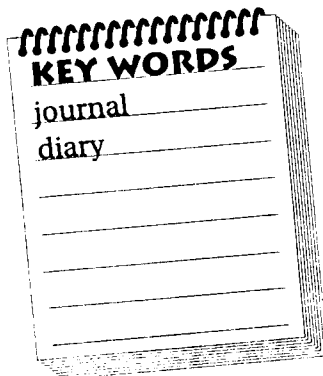
## WHAT THIS EPISODE IS ABOUT

In this episode, students will learn how to keep a daily writing journal. By the end of the lesson, students will be able to

- ✎ explain why writers keep journals
- ✎ recognize the importance of daily writing
- ✎ describe the various kinds of writing (poems, songs, jokes, stories, personal experiences, etc.) that can go into a journal

## VIDEO SUMMARY

Sarah joins an after-school writing group that includes many of her friends. The writing club's sponsor, Ms. Scott, explains that keeping a journal is a fun way to make sure that the club members write every day.



A journal is simply a place to write down your ideas, feelings, and memories. A journal can be a travel diary, a reading journal, a writer's log of ideas, a field notebook, or a personal diary.

Sarah and her friends buy and decorate their own journals and begin experimenting with their first entries.

Kyle writes and illustrates a story in comic-book style. Robin writes about her favorite wilderness area. Bradley describes his interest in music and his ambition to be a pop star. And Sarah, pretending that she is a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, records her thoughts and feelings about the new lands she's explored.

The Club Write members learn that keeping a journal is a powerful way to express themselves, and the process helps them to sharpen their writing skills.



## BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO

Ask students how many of them keep a personal diary or journal. What types of entries do they write in their diaries or journals?

Ask students why it's important to write regularly.

Tell students to watch the video closely and to look for examples of different ways to use a personal journal.

## WHILE VIEWING THE VIDEO

1. After Sarah and Robin look through Kyle's journal at the mall, PAUSE the video. Emphasize that journal entries are not finished products. Then discuss possible uses of Kyle's comic strip as a story idea. Ask, "What would Kyle need to do to turn his journal entry into a story?"
2. After Sarah reads the story about Lewis and Clark in the library, PAUSE the video. Discuss the importance of historical journals. What insights do they give us into the past?
3. After Robin writes her journal entry about Otter Creek Park, PAUSE the video and ask students: "Why did Robin write about the park as her journal entry? Why does she like writing in the park? What are some places where you like to write? Do you prefer to write in noisy or quiet places?"
4. After Brad writes his entry about how he loves music, PAUSE the video and ask students, "How is Brad's journal entry different from the others?"

## AFTER VIEWING THE VIDEO

Summarize the episode by asking students to

- ✎ explain why it's a good idea to keep a journal
- ✎ describe why it's important to write every day
- ✎ list the different types of writing they can do in a journal

## EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Set aside time during each school day for students to write in their journals. You may want to write in your own journal as students write in theirs. Give students choices about topics and writing style.



## **INTERNET RESOURCES**

**PBS Lewis and Clark**  
*<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>*

**Go West Across America with Lewis and Clark**  
*<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/97/west/index.html>*

