Keeping a journal can be both entertaining and rewarding for students; in addition, journal writing can increase students’ writing fluency and enhance vocabulary and grammar skills. Here are some helpful tips to get started:

1. Let your students select the type of journal they want to use: spiral or composition notebook, leather-bound journal, or blank journal that can be decorated.

2. Provide journal prompts to make it easier for students to find something to write about. Create a journal “idea jar” to help students select a topic. Write different prompts on separate pieces of bright-colored paper, then fold and place them in a large jar. Students can reach into the jar and select one to begin their writing. See prompts/ideas below.

3. Teach students how to use images and descriptions in their writing so that they paint a picture using words in each entry.

4. Find ways to value students’ writing. Give them opportunities to share their journal entries with a partner, small group, or the class; receive written feedback from the teacher; and select and revise a favorite journal entry.

**Writing Prompts:**

- Friends
- Family
- Favorite Things
- Pets
- Goals
- Memories
- Injuries
- School
- Enemies
- Vacations
- Toys
- Holidays
- Hobbies
- Teachers
- Fears
- Dreams
- Worries
- Nicknames
- Presents Given
- Presents Received
- Successes

**CCSS — W.3.1.** Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

**W.3.2.** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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