## **General Journal Assignment Guidelines**

**Description:** Your journal is a writing space for you to explore ideas, record your thoughts, and to respond to things you've experienced or read. While this is a mostly private writing space, you will be expected to share it with me and talk about ideas you develop in your journals with the class. I will respect your privacy when checking your journals. Since the word "journal" comes from the French for "day," journals are generally organized around dates. As I've mentioned before, you should bring your journal to class every day.

**Journal Objectives:** Besides reinforcing the general objectives outlined in the syllabus, journals will provide intensive, consistent, and frequent practice in using and testing language in order to build confidence and improve techniques to avoid getting stuck. You don't need to get your language perfect in journal entries. Instead, feel free to experiment with new vocabulary, play with sentence structures, and map out different organizations for assignments.

**Requirements:** You should write at least three journal entries each week. The journal should be kept in a notebook dedicated only to this purpose. You will be given specific assignments, but are expected to determine your own entries beyond those in order to meet the 3+ per week minimum. For each entry, dedicate at least 20 minutes to intensive writing, producing at least a page of handwritten text. Each entry should begin on a new page.

Each entry should have a date in the upper right-hand corner and a title centered at the top. This is what the top of each page should look like:

25 January 2011

Response to "The White Elephant" story

The problem with this article is that it never talks about the fairly big problem that a white elephant poses. I think that white elephants are extremely difficult to keep as pets because their poop is very difficult to clean, though I've heard it can be very

**Class Blog**: You will be expected to turn at least 10 journal entries into blog posts by the end of the semester. You will receive further instructions on the criteria for the blog in a separate assignment sheet.