

## ***Academic Journals***

*English 101*

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Academic journals are different from regular journals (or diaries, daybooks, etc.) in many respects. While regular journals keep a record of daily activities and events, academic journals focus on the material and concepts covered in class. Academic journals record perceptions, impressions, and reactions to readings, class discussions, and paper topics. However, like regular journals, they are primarily for the writer, not the reader.

For students, academic journals allow you to explore and develop your ideas and thoughts without completely committing to an argument. You can record reactions to a particular text and expand on those reactions. Journals are also a good place to get started writing papers; they allow you to discuss ideas with yourself without worrying about form, style, or voice. They are a good place for questions, answers, and ideas that have not been completely developed. In other words, it is a good place to get started thinking.

If you do not know how to get started, begin by summarizing the reading with which you are engaging. Include *at least* a passage from the reading material that you found interesting—something that sparked your imagination or just got you to stop and think. Work with that quote. Write. Then write some more.