DO NOW!
Journal Writing Prompts
Answer in your composition book right away!(7 min.)
About My Name

• Many names have special meaning or history. For example, the name Hannah means “favor” or “grace.” The name Vito means “life.”

• Write about your own name. Who named you? What does your name mean? Does it have a special ethnic or religious significance? Are you named after someone in your family? If you could change your name, would you?
King Arthur of the Round Table is a heroic figure of English legend. Arthur and his knights were said to live by a set of beliefs known as the Code of Chivalry. A few rules of the code include:
- Live one’s life so that it is worthy of respect and honor.
- Life for freedom, justice and all that is good.
- Be polite and attentive.
- Never betray a confidence or a comrade.
- Protect the innocent.

Come up with a modern Code of Chivalry. Write a list of at least 10 things people should do today to make modern society more chivalrous - that is, more considerate and courteous.
Childhood Memories

• Most people have vivid memories of certain events from childhood. What sticks in your mind? Pick one particularly strong memory and describe it in detail.
To Be Great

• Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said,
  - “Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame, but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.”

• Do you agree that everyone has the potential for greatness? Maybe you think serving others isn’t what makes someone great; if that’s the case, what do you think are the qualifying features of greatness?
My Own Private Utopia

A utopia, according to Webster’s dictionary, is “any place or state of ideal perfection.” One person’s utopia might be a country where discrimination does not exist and all lifestyles are tolerated. Another person’s utopia might be a huge city full of clubs, theaters and restaurants. What is your idea of utopia? If you could design the ideal society, what kind of laws would govern it? What would it look like? What kind of people would live there?
Everyday Heroes

- How do you define hero? Do you think fame is an important component of heroism, or do you think most heroes are unknown? Is there anyone you know personally whom you consider a hero?
Personal Personification

- **Personification** is a literary device that gives a nonliving object the characteristics of a living thing. For example, a writer might say that the wind sighs, the rain laughs, and the leaves whisper. The poet Carl Sandburg wrote a poem called “Fog” that begins with personification:
  - “The fog comes on little cat feet.”
- Write a second line, rhymed or unrhymed, to follow Sandburg’s line. For example:
  - The fog comes on little cat feet,
  - And creeps silently past my bedroom window.
Quirky Traditions

- A tradition is a special ritual shared by a group of people. Families and groups of friends practice traditions throughout the year. These traditions might have to do with holidays, celebrations, food, the season, or quirky family practices that have been passed down from generation to generation. Is there a tradition that you share with your family or friends? Describe it.
My Animal

• Which animal do you think you resemble most closely? Consider quiet, retiring animals like mice; bold and fearless ones like lions; eager, friendly ones like dogs; and finicky, secretive ones like cats. Consider your appearance, your personality, and the way you move. Then write about the animal with which you feel a kinship, explaining how you are similar in personality, characteristics and/or physical features.
Treasure or Trash

• To the naked eye it looks like junk, but you know it’s precious: the beat-up stuffed animal you slept with every night as a kid, the raggedy baseball mitt you used in Little League, the tooth you couldn’t bear to throw away after it fell out. Choose a beloved object from your own childhood, and explain why you feel sentimental about it or treasure it so much.
Delivery

• You answer a knock at the door and find a delivery guy holding a package for you. You open it up and you find...what? Describe the best package you can imagine receiving.
Sibling Rivalry

• Growing up with brothers and sisters can be difficult. If you have siblings, discuss the benefits and shortcomings of your situation. If you’re an only child, do the same. Would you rather have more siblings, or fewer? Do you think you’ll feel the same when you’re middle-aged?
What a Fright

• There’s “fun scary” (walking through a haunted house, screaming through a horror movie, riding a roller coaster) and then there’s “scary scary” (being in a car accident, getting caught in the ocean’s riptide). Describe the scariest experience you’ve ever had. Was it fun scary, or was it really terrifying?
Ode to Object

• Poets of the romantic movement wrote about nature in inspired, sometimes melodramatic tones. Think of an element in nature - something very simple, like a twig, a blade of grass, or a ladybug. Then write an ode of praise to this object, portraying it as extraordinary and important.
The Perfect Day

• Describe a perfect day - not the one you’d have if you were rich and famous, but the one you could have on this Saturday or Tuesday. What day of the week would your perfect day fall on? What would you do, see, eat, read, watch?
Generation Gap

• Parents and children often claim to be misunderstood by each other. Explain one thing you think your parents (or other people their age) don’t understand about your generation. Then explain one thing you think your parents would say your generation doesn’t understand about them.
Class Design

If you and your friends could choose one new class to add to the curriculum, what would it be? Think of what would most help you in your daily life or what would prepare you for life after graduation. What kind of assignments would be required, and how would the class benefit students?
Boys and Girls

• Do you think men or women have an easier time of things? Explain your thoughts.
Time Traveler

• If you could go anywhere in the world, at any time in the past or future, where and to what time would you go? What would you want to see, and whom would you want to meet? Explain.
Darkness and Light

• “Darkness cannot drive out the darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

• Dr. King was a pacifist and believed hatred and prejudice could be fought with love. Do you agree with him? Do you think that in all situations a peaceful response is the correct one?
Dinner Party

• If you could invite any three people from any period in history to a dinner party, whom would you invite? Describe each person, and explain why you chose him or her.
Love Is the Flower

• “Love is the flower of life, and blossoms unexpectedly and without law, and must be plucked where it is found, and enjoyed for the brief hour of its duration.” – D. H. Lawrence

What is the first thing that comes to mind after reading this quotation? How does it make you feel? Whom or what does it make you think about?
In the Attic

• You’re staying with your grandparents. One day you venture up into the attic. Among all the cobwebs, old clothes, and dusty boxes you find a big old trunk. Curious you open the lid...

• What would you like to find in the trunk (besides money)? Would you want to find something of monetary value? Would you want to find the old journals of a distant relative?
Time Capsule

• You are putting together a time capsule that will be buried in your backyard for 50 years. The capsule is about the size of a large suitcase. What would you put inside the capsule? What would you want future generations to know about today’s world? What items best represent who you are? What items best represent your place in history?