

Journaling Directions

Journaling is the process of writing down one's thoughts and ideas. It is a chance to write about events. Actually... it's the opportunity to write about pretty much anything and everything.

A journal is typically for your eyes only, so it means that you can write *anything* that you want.

For this assignment, though, you're going to have a reader or two, so you want to do a little planning before you start to write.

First, read a brief story about the 17th Amendment.

Next, imagine that you are a senator sometime between 1826 and 1911. How would you feel about the movement to change the process of appointing senators? Do you think that popular elections are a good idea? Why or why not?

There are many reasons that appointments are a good idea and that elections are a bad idea -- and vice versa.

On the back of this page or on a separate sheet of paper, write down everything you can think of that relates to your support for (or your vote against) changing appointments to elections.

After you have everything scribbled down, it's time to write your journal entry. Make sure that you cover the points below:

- Which side, as a senator, are you on? Do you support appointing or electing?
- Why are you on this side? Provide at least three reasons.
- What are some reasons you might be wrong? Provide at least two contradictions to your argument.
- How might the Constitution support your point of view? How might the Constitution NOT support your point of view?
- How would you vote on the matter and why? Is your vote different from your opinion, and if so, why?
- How do you think the people of your state feel about the idea of a popular election?

