Rubric for Assessing a Journal Entry

Grading Criteria	Excellent	Acceptable	Minimal	Unacceptable
Content	Response to assigned topic thorough and well written, with varied sentence structure and vocabulary; opinions always supported with facts.	Response thoughtful and fairly well written; most opinions supported with facts	Response adequately addresses some aspects of the assigned topic; opinions sometimes based on incorrect information.	Response consists of unsupported opinions only marginally related to the topic.
Idea Development	Excellent use of examples and details to explore and develop ideas and opinions.	Good reliance upon examples and details to illustrate and develop ideas and opinions.	Incomplete development of ideas; details and examples not always evident.	Ideas not clearly stated or developed.
Organization	Very logically organized; contains introduction; development of main idea (or ideas), and conclusion.	Contains introduction, some development of ideas, and conclusion.	Topics and ideas discussed somewhat randomly; entry may lack clearly defined introduction or conclusion.	Entry is unstructured.
Mechanics	Flawless spelling and punctuation.	Few or no spelling errors; some minor punctuation mistakes.	Several spelling and punctuation errors.	Many instances of incorrect spelling and punctuation.