

Double-Entry Journal Notes

What is it? Students take notes on their reading in two columns with a line drawn vertically down the middle of each page. In one column, they use a quotation from the text that is significant in some way. For instance, the quote may give insight into a character, describe an important event in the storyline, or reveal one of the novel's themes. In the other, they write their own thoughts and responses - questions, confusions, personal reactions, connections, explanations, or reflections - as they relate to this quote.

Why use it? Not only does it provide students with important notes from the text, but it also gives them the opportunity to reflect, wonder, or ask themselves what might be implied by the ideas presented. In other words, it is a self-directed response tool.

How do I format the quotations? We write literature quotations in a specific way known as MLA (Modern Language Association) format. Notice how the quotation marks are at the beginning and the end of the quote. Also notice that the last name of the author is placed in parentheses as well as the page number on which the quote was taken. Finally, a period is placed after the parentheses.

Example: From *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

QUOTATIONS	RESPONSES
"Only one dog remained alive; but there was a human being within it whom the sailors were persuading to enter the vessel" (Shelley 10).	Who is the man stranded on the large chunk of ice? Where did he come from? Where was he headed? What happened to his other dogs? Could this man be Victor Frankenstein?
"I had great trouble to keep off the men who wished to ask him a thousand questions" (Shelley 11).	R. Walton is very considerate. He wanted the guest to relax and recover without constant questions from the crew. I wonder if the two will become friends since Walton already shows great sensitivity and warmth.