**Daily Writing Assignments – Instructions**

**Message to my Students: Before you even read through this, please understand that I do not care which form of notebook you use. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE STORE TO BUY A NOTEBOOK. You can use your phone, your computer, your notebook, pencil and paper…whatever you have…to do these writing assignments. If you want to order a composition notebook, go for it. I am not trying to make this any harder on you than it already is.**

You are living through an unprecedented moment in history—right now! Today, tomorrow, and the days that follow will be captured in history books. Someday, you will share stories with your children and grandchildren about living through this time. Because these days are historical, it is critical that we do not let these events pass without capturing how they affect you, your family, your school, and your community.

Since you will be “schooling” from home, I will describe here the **daily** assigned work to be done outside the classroom. Here is your daily writing requirement.

Daily Writing:

**You will be asked to write one page (or more) a day in your writer’s notebook,** capturing your thoughts, questions, comments, and concerns about the events that are unfolding. I want you to capture this history—your history—any way you’d like. Below are some suggestions for your daily writing, but you do not need to follow them. Feel free to generate your own thinking.

Some possibilities for daily writing:

* Capture how this virus has disrupted your school year—including sporting events, concerts, assemblies, and dances.
* Discuss how your daily life has been disrupted.
* Share the effect it has on your friends and family.
* As we go into more social isolation, you might write reviews of movies, television shows, podcasts, video games to share with your classmates. We will share digital spaces on Google Classroom and Flipgrid to share thinking (details to follow).
* Respond to any seed about the crisis you find interesting. A “seed” can be an article, a broadcast, a TedTalk, a tweet, a photograph, a podcast, a film, an Instagram (or other online) post, a TikTok video, a political cartoon—anything that spurs something about the crisis. You are encouraged to find your owns seeds—whatever you think is worth writing about. In the future, I will provide potential articles and items that serve as a catalyst for writing. In the meantime, you can find whatever generates interest for you.

As the crisis unfolds, you will be able to find new seeds that encourage reflection. This story changes every day. Do not depend on the teacher to do your thinking for you. Find seeds worthy of writing and thinking about. Be creative: Write across genres: poetry, dialogue, description: zoom in on a moment you experience; discuss songs that capture these events for you; find and respond to charts and graphs worth thinking about. Or perhaps you’d like to make a scrapbook. If so, here are some samples to spur your thinking:

* <https://www.creativelive.com/blog/scrapbook-ideas-for-beginners/>
* <https://www.pinterest.com/simonssaysstamp/scrapbook-layouts/>

Here is another site that shows ways of keeping interesting notebooks:

<http://www.sharingournotebooks.amylv.com/>

You might also want to look at how other people in history captured historical events. Here, for example, is a look at the notebooks of Anne Frank, which have been read by millions of people: <https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/diary/complete-works-anne-frank/>

Again, be creative as you decide how best to chronicle your thinking. What is the best way to capture this historical moment? You decide. Be creative! As we move further into the weeks ahead, we will begin discussing where we will eventually begin sharing our writing. You will not be asked to share everything you write, but occasionally you will be asked to join the written “conversation.”