

# Journal Entries

## Usage of this handout:

Use this handout as a 'snapshot' of the different items students will be writing in their journals. This handout can be copied onto a transparency and used to introduce each journal entry to students or it can be copied and given to students so they have their own copies. Some of the assessments are actual formative assessments that are listed in the procedures of the corresponding lesson. These are indicated with Formative Assessment. Other assessments may be for completion only.

## Day 2

1. Beginning thoughts on nature vs. nurture:
  - a. Before we even begin our discussions on the unit, I want to find out what you know about our topic.
  - b. **Prompt:** Think about what you know about the terms nature and nurture. What do you think these words mean? Now, open your journals and answer this question, "Which is a more important factor in how your personality develops?"
  
2. Next thoughts on nature vs. nurture:
  - a. **Prompt:** Now that you've discussed with a neighbor thoughts about nature vs. nurture, I want you to go back to your journals and add any new information that you would like to.

## Day 3

1. As you listen to the instructions, and as your teacher writes the vocabulary on the board, write down the words and definitions in your journals. Here are the vocabulary words you should be listening for:
  - i. Biology
  - ii. Genetics
  - iii. Geneticists
  - iv. Hereditary
  - v. Traits
  - vi. Gregory Mendel
  - vii. Cell
  - viii. Dominant traits
  - ix. Recessive traits

2. Now that you've investigated dominant and recessive traits, open your journals and prepare to write a paragraph in which you explain the following:
  - a. Define dominant and recessive traits
  - b. List examples of dominant and recessive traits
  - c. Explain how dominant and recessive traits are inherited.

#### Day 4

1. As you listen to the instructions, and as your teacher writes the vocabulary on the board, write down the words and definitions in your journal. Here are the vocabulary words you should be listening for:
  - i. Organisms
  - ii. DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid)
  - iii. Transmits
  - iv. Generation
  - v. Genes
  - vi. DNA Molecule
  - vii. Double Helix
  - viii. Code
  - ix. Protein
  - x. Sugar
  - xi. Mineral
  - xii. Chemicals
  - xiii. Bases
  - xiv. A, T, C, and G
  - xv. Nucleus
  - xvi. Replication

2. After you have worked through the Website, DNA: The Instruction Manual for All Life, you will be asked to build a 3-D model of DNA with toothpicks and gumdrops. Use the DNA Model Checklist to help you understand what needs to be incorporated into the model. Before using the materials, you should create a rough draft of the model and paragraph and get teacher approval before building your 3-D model.

#### Day 5

1. Think about the essential question for this unit, Which is a more important factor in how your personality develops- nature or nurture? Write your current thoughts in your journals. Be sure to discuss any changes that may have occurred from your original ideas.

2. As your teacher writes down reading strategies on the board, you should also write them down in your journal.
3. After you have read the article with the teacher and worked in groups to create summaries, you will write your OWN summary in your journal.

**Day 6**

No Journal Entries

**Day 7**

No Journal Entries

**Day 8**

No Journal Entries

**Day 9**

Now that you have been learning about Nature vs. Nurture for 9 days, has your opinion changed about the Nature vs. Nurture controversy? Write in your journal about how your thoughts have changed or expanded now that you have learned more.

## Journal Entries Assessment Criteria

### Day 2

1. **Assessment:** None. These should be beginning ideas! (Completion only.)
2. **Assessment:** They are still gathering information! (Completion only.)

### Day 3

1. **Assessment:** They should have each word written and correctly defined. (Completion only.)
2. **Formative Assessment:** Look for the ability to define each type of trait and correctly explain that in a pair of alleles the dominant allele determines if the trait is present and the recessive allele is masked if the dominant one is present. Make a note of misconceptions and address them the following day.

### Day 4

1. **Assessment:** They should have each word written and correctly defined. (Completion only.)
2. **Formative Assessment:** Use the DNA Model Checklist.

### Day 5

1. **Assessment:** Read for completion and for basic understanding of the topic.
2. **Assessment:** Completion only.
3. **Formative Assessment:** Assess student's ability to accurately and concisely retell the main idea of the articles and their knowledge of how nature effects development. If the effects of nature on human development are not apparent in the paragraph, you may need to conference one-on-one to determine gaps in knowledge.

### Day 9

Read student journals to see if they have a basic grasp of the nature vs. nurture controversy.