

Journal Writing in Mathematics



Dr. Norma Noguera
California State University, Long Beach
E-mail: nnoguera@csulb.edu

What are the goals of using writing assignments in teaching math?

- To encourage students to examine their ideas and reflect on what they have learned.
- To help the students to clarify their thinking and develop a deeper understanding of what they have learned.
- To assess students understanding about what I was teaching.
- To help students formulate and clarify their ideas.

How do you assess writing assignments?

Journals:

I will ask you to write ten journals throughout the semester. You must send them using my e-mail address.

I would not grade any journal send it after the first five minutes of the due date.

Tuesday 02/12	3.3	Exponents. 3.3 A: 5-15 3.3 B: 5-12 <i>Journal #2 Due. HW #2.</i>
Thursday 02/14		Review for Test # 1. Students' input.
Tuesday 02/19		TEST # 1
Thursday 02/21	4.2 8.1	Written algorithm for whole numbers. Integers, add/sub. 4.2 A: 3-16 4.2 B: 1-7 8.1 A: 1-18 8.1 B: 1-14
Tuesday 02/26	8.2	Multiplication/division. 8.2 A: 1-16 8.2 B: 1-17 <i>Journal # 3 Due. HW #3.</i>
Thursday 02/28	5.1	Primes, composite and divisibility tests. 5.1 A: 1-13, 5.1 B: 1-12 <i>Journal # 4 Due.</i>

How much work is assessing them?

I enjoy looking up the students' papers.

What kind of results do you get?

- I get to know my students better.
- I find their mathematical thinking unique and interesting.
- I can give them feed back when I found misconceptions.
- I ask my students to re do the journal when the writing is confusing.

If I wanted to start giving such assignments, how you recommended to get started?

I used three categories of writing assignments:

1. Solving math problems
- 2. Explaining mathematical ideas.**
3. General math writing assignments