

# ***Social Studies – Grade 8***

## **How to Write A Journal?**

### **Format**

#### **Introduction**

- 1-2 complete sentences
- State your main idea or opinion
- Short and concise response to the question asked

#### **Body**

- Normally 5-8 complete sentences (*length depends on the subject*)
- Your supports and explanation for your introduction
- You include examples, events, facts, etc.

#### **Conclusion**

- 1-2 complete sentences
- Reaffirm your main idea or opinion
- Your main idea or opinion should now be very clear to the reader

### **Terms Frequently used in Test/Journal Questions**

#### ***Describe:***

Talk about the basic details given. In English if it says 'describe' use quotes when talking about the subject given. Say what the thing is like.

#### ***Explain:***

Backing up what you say with evidence and go into a lot of detail why you are saying this. In English if the question says 'explain' don't say something unless you can back it up with substantial detail.

#### ***Define:***

To give in precise terms the meaning of something. Bring to attention any problems posed with the definition and different interpretations that may exist.

***Summarize:***

Give a condensed version drawing out the main facts and leave out unnecessary information. Brief or general examples will normally suffice for this kind of answer.

***Compare:***

Identify the similarities and differences between two or more phenomena. Say if any of the shared similarities or differences are more important than others. 'Compare' and 'contrast' will often feature together in an essay question.

***Evaluate:***

Give your verdict as to what extent a statement or findings within a piece of research are true, or to what extent you agree with them. Provide evidence taken from a wide range of sources which both agree with and contradict an argument. Come to a final conclusion, basing your decision on what you judge to be the most important factors and justify how you have made your choice.