

## WRITING STRATEGY

# The Diary of Anne Frank

### PURPOSE

The students will interact with a portion of the text of Anne Frank to create descriptions based on the vocabulary they are reading and learning. They will create their own poem to express similar feelings from comparable experiences of Anne Frank. By creating their own journal entry they will show their knowledge of the reading and interpret Anne's vision of life. Students will also need to formulate new ideas showing organizational skills and critical thinking.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Make an overhead or a handout of a portion of the text or some sort of contemporary writing. I have chosen to use a poem by Siegfried Sassoon, who also wrote of war. He showed the life from the battlefield and the trauma soldiers went through.
2. Read the passage out loud as the students follow along.
3. Have each student choose 20-25 words from the passage that they enjoy the best, emphasize description, emotions, colors, ETC.
4. Allow 15-20 minutes for students to create their own journal entries from their word list. Address the entry as Dear Journal or to a character in the story (i.e. Dear Mother, Father, ETC.). They will be written in the students own voice from the words in the poem but may modify the tenses, prefixes, and/or suffixes of any of the words within the handout. They may also choose up to four outside words. Words in the citation may be used more than once. The layout of the entry may also be in poetic form, but not mandatory. Once again, encourage creativity!
5. Model the activity by sharing your own personal entry.
6. Ask several students to share their entry in front of the class.

### ASSESSMENT

Each student's journal entry will show their understanding of vocabulary and creative critical thinking skills. Using the classroom as an exposition of student work act as a forum to help build the confidence of some students as well as encourage their peers into improved performance. The class may assess themselves individually as the teacher can immediately assess each student's performance.

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**The Diary of Anne Frank**

HANDOUT

Siegfried Sassoon  
**"How to Die"**

Dark clouds are smouldering into red  
While down the craters morning burns.  
The dying soldier shifts his head  
To watch the glory that returns;  
He lifts his fingers toward the skies  
Where holy brightness breaks in flame;  
Radiance reflected in his eyes,  
And on his lips a whispered name.

You'd think, to hear some people talk,  
That lads go West with sobs and curses,  
And sullen faces white as chalk,  
Hankering for wreaths and tombs and  
hearses.  
But they've been taught the way to do it  
Like Christian soldiers; not with haste  
And shuddering groans; but passing  
through it  
With due regard for decent taste.

Example Journal Entry:

Dear Journal,  
Hankering sobs,  
like morning reflecting people.  
White lips,  
talk with smouldering clouds.  
Glory shifts,  
to holy shuttering groans whispered  
in dying.