



“He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.”

Journal Response Writing

Questions to ask about quotations that may help you write quickly:

1. What, in my own words, do I think the quotation is saying?
2. Do I agree or disagree with what it says or means? Why?
3. Can I think of examples that illustrate the truth or fallacy of this quotation?
4. Can these words apply to daily life experiences? Which ones?
5. Does the quotation remind me of anything else I have heard—another quotation, song, story, etc?
6. Is the quotation difficult to comprehend? If so Why? If not why not?

Student sample of five-minute free write journal response to quote:

“He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.” These words of Benjamin Franklin remain true for all people of all creeds. Habits that you pick up usually derive from someone you spend much time with. A prime example of this would be my brother. He was the world’s biggest slob until my extremely clean and organized stepfather came into the picture. At one time, a person would walk down the hall and smell the rank odor that had seeped from under my brother’s door. On the other hand, my stepfather would be on his hands and knees cleaning the baseboards with Q-Tips. When my new father came into the picture my brother started modeling himself after Joe. Now, my brother insists that you take off your shoes before entering his room, which is immaculate.

Let’s discuss the pros and cons of this piece for a minute.

Now we will write. Choose one of the quotations from the myriad on the wall.

Now here are questions to ask yourself as you look over your own responses:

Reflecting on Writing: What Happened as You Wrote?

1. What got you started? Did one idea hit you or did you consider many things? What was your emotional state as you started?
2. Once you started, did you write continually or did you stop and start? Did it become easier as you wrote?
3. Did you make changes as you wrote? What Kind? Did you find it difficult to make changes? Did you read your final copy over at the end? Did you want to make corrections then?
4. Did you ask someone else to read and edit your writing? How did you feel about the suggestions made?
5. What needs to be done with the piece now? If you were to do more with it, how would you go about improving it?

Be sure to date and save all journal entries. We will strive for a half to full page per 5 minutes.