

The Great Depression

Focus on Writing

Journal Entry

Write a one-page journal entry as if you were a person living during the Great Depression. You might write from the point of view of a student, artist, farmer, or someone else.

PREWRITING

- 1. Taking Notes on the End of Prosperity** Take notes on the stock market crash, the banking crisis, and rising unemployment. How might your character feel about these events? Consider how you could make money for your family during this time.
- 2. Thinking about New Deal Programs** Take notes on the New Deal programs. How might these programs affect your character? For instance, how do you think he or she would feel about getting a construction job with the Works Progress Administration?
- 3. Taking Notes on the Hard Times** Take notes about the Dust Bowl, family life, and Depression-era culture. What would it have been like to be a farmer during this time? How would you describe your experience in your journal?

WRITING

- 4. Writing** Begin by reviewing your notes. Decide on a fictional character and a set of circumstances for your character. Choose two or more events from the Great Depression for your character to discuss. Then, write a one-page journal entry about this person's life. Follow the model below:

<Date>

Dear Journal:

I am writing to describe my experiences during the Great Depression.

EVALUATING AND PROOFREADING

5. Evaluating Journal Entry Does your journal entry do a good job of presenting the life of your character during the Depression? Use the questions below to evaluate and revise your journal entry.

Rubric

- Does your entry begin with a date from the 1930s?
- Does your one-page entry tell what life would have been like for your character?
- Does your entry describe your character's feelings about his or her experiences?
- Does your entry tell about two events from the Great Depression?

6. Proofreading Your Journal Entry Lastly, check the following:

- Capitalization and spelling of all proper names and places
- Punctuation, grammar, and spelling