**Become the Primary Source!**

**WHAT: *WRITE*** one or more personal journal entries per week while school is closed.

**WHY:** On any given day we are living history, but it just so happens that we are now living through a globally historic event: COVID-19 pandemic 2020. ***Become the primary source*** that high-schoolers will eagerly cite and Netflix will want to buy. Your unique first-hand perspective offers:

* future generations an insight into this historical event from your personal experience.
* a way for you to make meaning of your world and connect with yourself.
* a keepsake for you to look back on when you are old and senile.

**HOW:**

* Connect: *consider...*
  + how do you know things in these uncertain times.
  + what knowledge questions are you confronted with in your daily lives right now.
  + using optional weekly prompts posted on teacher website in the upcoming weeks.
* Focus: your daily life activities during school closure (memoir)
* Length: suggested 5 lines or more if daily; 1 page if weekly
* Organization: chronological dates; entry titles if desired; legible penmanship or typed
* Style: work on further developing questioning and analytical thinking skills; details, *not* wordiness
* **ENTRY 1:** Cultural Context & Rhetorical Situation -
  + Speaker: background information on you and your life at this time in this location
  + Purpose: What do you hope to achieve in writing a journal at this time?
  + Audience (real or imagined): Consider who you’re writing for (self, friend, future offspring…) and what style might be most effective for your purpose.
  + Subject: Be honest and as personal as you want, but know that teachers are mandated reporters for your safety and the safety of others. Include a warning note if graphic content/lang used. Select a safe excerpt for peer share.
* All other entries are entirely yours to create.

**STYLE SAMPLES:**

* *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank 1947 - Amsterdam, Netherlands
  + June, 1942: “I hope I will be able to confide everything to you [diary], as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.” (Jewish Holocaust)
* From the diary of Ethel Mortensen (great grandmother of Ms. Petersen) - Ruskin, Nebraska
  + April 14, 1935: (Black Sunday) “Sun. S.S. [Sunday School] & reading service. Nice this morning but had a terrible dust storm before church was out. Got stuck in dust North of our place, walked thru the pasture home. Harvey and Betty stopped in to help get car out.” (Great Depression & Dust Bowl)