# How to Create a Visual Journal Entry

1. **Start by writing a response** to the event, or activity or your day. Write around 150 words to get your critical thought process going. Maybe you end up with more questions than answers in your response; don't worry about it, the main point is TO WRITE. This activity lays the critical foundation for your visual journal entry.

2. **Find visual cues in your words.** What images are already embedded in your writing? Do images come to mind. Start making xeroxes, finding collage elements or making drawings that visualize your writing. Consider which colors or visual elements from this entry might be appropriate to repeat in later entries (i.e. always save everything- when you reuse elements, you help to unify the journal).

3. How can you incorporate **your written response as a visual element** on the page? Using what you wrote as a visual element in each entry is a key component to your journal project. It helps you link the content of the course with your creative expression. As you look at your writing, think about direction of the words, scale, **font**, transparency, etc. Should the text rest in the background or be laid down transparently over the other images? Or both? What "found text" can also be incorporated from newspapers, magazines, paper bags?

4. **Assemble the parts** before you glue or transfer anything. Move things around. Consider balance, repetition, variety.....open spaces vs. closed spaces. **How does your composition support your written thoughts and/or expand on them?** Have you chosen materials and images that *really* focus on the subject matter?

5. Glue, transfer, wash, draw: **put it down**! Consider how the **visual elements** work together as shapes, lines, values, textures and colors. Take a look at your **color scheme**. Edit out colors that do not relate, jot down color notes to use in subsequent entries to help unify the journal as you go.

6. **Assess and seek input**: Could you incorporate more of your own text over or around the images? How is your color scheme working to support your ideas? Seek peer and professor feedback to see what else can be done. Ask what message or concepts they "read" from your entry to see if you are communicating your thoughts clearly. If you get stuck, revisit the gallery of student work to find some inspiration.

7. **Close the loop!** Make changes as necessary in response to feedback.