

Journal Prompts

The Wall

Elementary Journals

Elementary Art Prompt #1: Draw a picture of yourself standing on top of the wall. Draw the things (opportunities) you can see on the other side (your “big view”).

Elementary Art Prompt #2: Draw a picture of something positive you see yourself doing in the future

Elementary Art Prompt #3: *Big View Shades*: Have students design a large, super cool pair of shades (sunglasses). Explain or show how sunglasses reflect in the lenses what we are looking at or what is ahead of you. Have them draw a reflection in their sunglasses that represents a goal they have for the future.

Elementary Art Prompt #4: Seeing over the wall involves having the proper perspective. Discuss briefly with the students what “perspective” is when talking about artwork. Find a book or get pictures off the Internet of work by Escher. His optical illusions often play with and distort perspective. Allow students to look at his work and point out the ways in which he has manipulated perspective to create illusions. Have students create a drawing that purposely distorts perspective. If time permits, have them try and draw the same picture using accurate perspective. Emphasize to students that although manipulating perspective in art can be fun and interesting, not having proper perspective in life can prevent you from reaching your goals.

Elementary Art Prompt #5: *Limited View vs. Big View*: Have students find a picture in a magazine that they could draw. Have them roll up a half sheet of paper and make a tube. Have them close or cover up one eye and hold the tube over the other eye while they try to draw the picture they chose. Give them a few minutes to work at their drawing while only being able to look at their reference picture through the tube. Then have them put down their tube and finish the drawing with both eyes open and unobstructed. Discuss with students which way was easier to draw and why.

Elementary Intro Activity: Have students make up a report card. Have them grade themselves in each of the analogies using the standard A, B, C, D, F grading scale. Encourage students to make at least one comment about where they need to make improvements and to give compliments about areas where they are excelling in each analogy; the grades should be based upon self-evaluation by each person of his/her own life. After everyone has completed the activity, challenge each person to share at least part of his/her report card with the group.

Elementary Journal Overview: Have students complete the following activity on the Introductory Activity page for The Wall.

Elementary Vocab List: Define different terms related to The Wall

Elementary Journal #1: What is the wall? In what way does it limit your view?

Elementary Journal #2: What are some of the steps you are taking to see over the wall?

Elementary Journal #3: How do you know if you are on top of the wall? If you climb the wall, what will you be able to see?

Elementary Journal #4: What does this phrase mean? "If you don't know where you are going, you won't know when you get there."

Elementary Journal #5: As you have taken steps to climb the wall, what differences have you noticed at home? At school? With friends? In what ways have things gotten better?

Elementary Journal #6: What does "perspective" mean? How does your perspective change as you climb the wall?

Elementary Journal #7: What does it mean when someone says, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail"? Why is planning an important part of seeing over the wall?

Elementary Journal #8: Answer the question: "Why Try?"