The dialectical journal features in the left column passages you select from the texts you read for this class (with names of texts, chapters/acts, page numbers in parentheses after each entry). It features in the right column your thoughtful responses to those textual passages (written directly to the right of each passage).

**A**

* Demonstrates a comprehensive and highly insightful understanding of the significant ideas in the passages
* Analyzes with mastery the writer’s use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text
* Regularly supports important student ideas and viewpoints through highly accurate and detailed references to the principal text and other works
* Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the author’s use of stylistic devices (including figurative language, irony, tone, mood) and an appreciation of the effects created

**B**

* Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the significant ideas in the passages
* Analyzes the writer’s use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text
* Supports important student ideas and viewpoints through highly accurate and detailed references to the principal text and other works
* Demonstrates an understanding of the author’s use of stylistic devices (including figurative language, irony, tone, mood) and an appreciation of the effects created

**C**

* Demonstrates a competent understanding of the significant ideas in the passages
* Occasionally analyzes the writer’s use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text
* Supports student ideas and viewpoints through somewhat accurate and detailed references to the principal text and other works
* Demonstrates some understanding of the author’s use of stylistic devices (including figurative language, irony, tone, mood) and some appreciation of the effects created

**D**

* May place too heavy an emphasis on textual summary
* Demonstrates limited understanding of the significant ideas in the passages
* Rarely analyzes the writer’s use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text
* Weakly supports student ideas and viewpoints through casual references to the principal text
* Demonstrates limited understanding of the author’s use of stylistic devices (including figurative language, irony, tone, mood) and little appreciation of the effects created

**F**

* May simply summarize the text
* Demonstrates poor (or no) understanding of the significant ideas in the passages
* Does not analyze the writer’s use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text
* Does not support student ideas and viewpoints through textual references
* Demonstrates poor (or no) understanding of the author’s use of stylistic devices