**Alternative Journal Entry Graphic Organizer**

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| **Claim/Topic Sentence:** What point are you going to make in this paragraph? Include the title and author. |
| **Introduce Quote #1:** Briefly introduce your quote by providing context/background. Who? What? When? Where? (Hint: Use a transition to introduce your quote!) |
| **Quote # 1:** (Don’t forget the page number!) |
| **Analyze Quote #1:**Explain how the quote proves your point. (Please don’t say, “This proves” or “This shows.) |
| **Introduce Quote #2:** Briefly introduce your quote by providing context/background. Who? What? When? Where? (Hint: Use a transition to introduce your quote!) |
| **Quote # 2:** (Don’t forget the page number!) |
| **Analyze Quote #2:**Explain how the quote proves your point. (Please don’t say, “This proves” or “This shows.) |
| **Introduce Quote #3:** Briefly introduce your quote by providing context/background. Who? What? When? Where? (Hint: Use a transition to introduce your quote!) |
| **Quote # 3:** (Don’t forget the page number!) |
| **Analyze Quote #3:**Explain how the quote proves your point. (Please don’t say, “This proves” or “This shows.) |
| **Concluding Sentence:** So what? Why does this matter? |

**Alternative Journal Entry Graphic Organizer**

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| **Claim/Topic Sentence:** What point are you going to make in this paragraph? Include the title and author.  **Wiesel suggests that it is human nature to adjust to the circumstances of our lives and create routines in order to protect ourselves from the pain of reality** |
| **Introduce Quote #1:** Briefly introduce your quote by providing context/background. Who? What? When? Where? (Hint: Use a transition to introduce your quote!)  **For example Wiesel describes the mood of the people of Sighet after the deportation of foreign Jews as normal.** |
| **Quote # 1:** (Don’t forget the page number!)  **Wiesel says, “Several days passed. Several weeks. Several months. Life had returned to normal. A wind of calmness and reassurance blew through our houses.” (4)** |
| **Analyze Quote #1:**Explain how the quote proves your point. (Please don’t say, “This proves” or “This shows.)  **Before the deportation of foreign Jews, Sighet had been untouched by the war; this was the first time it directly affected their lives. And yet they forgot their absent friends and even felt calm and reassured only months later** |
| **Introduce Quote #2:** Briefly introduce your quote by providing context/background. Who? What? When? Where? (Hint: Use a transition to introduce your quote!)  **When the two ghettos are set up in Sighet Wiesel says that the people quickly acclimated.** |
| **Quote # 2:** (Don’t forget the page number!)  **He writes, “Little by little life returned to normal.”(9)** |
| **Analyze Quote #2:**Explain how the quote proves your point. (Please don’t say, “This proves” or “This shows.)  **Here the facts of his reality are anything but normal, and yet as people continued in their daily existence they fell back into patterns and routines that provided a sense of normalcy and security** |
| **Introduce Quote #3:** Briefly introduce your quote by providing context/background. Who? What? When? Where? (Hint: Use a transition to introduce your quote!)  **Wiesel stresses the way people were able to adjust their state of mind and define a new normal when he describes the time he spent in the little ghetto awaiting deportation.** |
| **Quote # 3:** (Don’t forget the page number!)  **He writes, “The people’s morale was not too bad; we were beginning to get used to the situation.” (18)** |
| **Analyze Quote #3:**Explain how the quote proves your point. (Please don’t say, “This proves” or “This shows.)  **This is almost an unbelievable assertion. Wiesel has just described how he and his family and friends had lost their homes and were essentially squatting in the homes of those already deported, knowing that any day, they, too, would be shipped away from their homeland. And yet somehow, their morale was not bad. They were adjusting.** |
| **Concluding Sentence:** So what? Why does this matter?  **Wiesel’s descriptions of the way people coped with the brutal reality that they were losing their homes and surrendering themselves into the hands of people who hated them and who wanted to exterminate their race suggest the natural tendency of the human mind to build illusions of safety in times of peril. Yet his tone seems critical, implying that if he and his neighbors had not blinded themselves to the truth, they could have done something different.** |

Although the first Chapter of *Night* by Elie Wiesel describes the trauma the Jews of Sighet experienced as the Nazis came to power and ultimately expelled them from their homes, Wiesel emphasizes the fact that with each successive hardship, the people adjusted and found normalcy. Thus Wiesel suggests that it is human nature to adjust to the circumstances of our lives and create routines in order to protect ourselves from the pain of reality. For example after the deportation of foreign Jews, an event that jolted the community of Sighet with the reality of war, Wiesel says, “Several days passed. Several weeks. Several months. Life had returned to normal. A wind of calmness and reassurance blew through our houses.” (4) Before the deportation of foreign Jews, Sighet had been untouched by the war; this was the first time it directly affected their lives. And yet they forgot their absent friends and even felt calm and reassured only months later. Similarly, when the two ghettos are set up in Sighet, segregating the Jews from the neighbors and causing people to have to leave their homes outside the designated areas, Wiesel says that the people quickly acclimated. He writes, “Little by little life returned to normal.”(9) Here the facts of his reality are anything but normal, and yet as people continued in their daily existence they fell back into patterns and routines that provided a sense of normalcy and security. Wiesel again stresses the way people were able to adjust their state of mind and define a new normal when he describes the time he spent in the little ghetto awaiting deportation. He writes, “The people’s morale was not too bad; we were beginning to get used to the situation.” (18) This is almost an unbelievable assertion. Wiesel has just described how he and his family and friends had lost their homes and were essentially squatting in the homes of those already deported, knowing that any day, they, too, would be shipped away from their homeland. And yet somehow, their morale was not bad. They were adjusting. Wiesel’s descriptions of the way people coped with the brutal reality that they were losing their homes and surrendering themselves into the hands of people who hated them and who wanted to exterminate their race suggest the natural tendency of the human mind to build illusions of safety in times of peril. Indeed, facing the truth before them might have utterly crushed the spirits of many of the Jews of Sighet. While this may be a natural defense mechanism of the mind, Wiesel’s tone seems critical, implying that if he and his neighbors had not blinded themselves to the truth, they could have taken action to save themselves.