**Dialectical Journals**

The Following is an example of how to do a dialectical journal taken from pages 44-45 of *The Language of Composition* text. You may copy the format on page 2 to use for your own dialectical journals.

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| **Quotation with page/paragraph #** | **Paraphrase or Summary** | **Rhetorical Strategy or Style Element** | **Effect or Function** |
| There is something uneasy in the Los Angeles air this afternoon, some unnatural stillness, some tension. What it means is that tonight a Santa Ana will begin to blow, a hot wind from the northeast whining down through the Cajon and San Gorgonio Passes, blowing up sand storms out along Route 66, drying the hills and the nerves to flash point. For a few days now we will see smoke back in the canyons, and hear sirens in the night. I have neither heard nor read that a Santa Ana is due, but I know it, and almsot everyone I have seen today knows it too. We know it because we feel it. The baby frets. The maid sulks. I rekindle a waning argument with the telephone company, then cut my losses and lie down, diben over to whatever it is in the air. To live with the Santa Ana is to accept, consciously or unconsciously, a deeply mechanistic view of human behavior. Taken from the *LOC* text (44-45).  | The winds are creepy. They bring sand storms and cause fires. People know they’re coming without being told because babies and maids act strange. The speaker picks a fight and then gives up. The Santa Ana winds make us aware that human behavior can be explained in terms of physical causes and processes.  | Personification: the wind whinesCumulative sentenceTwo short sentences: “The baby frents. The maid sulks.” “Rekindle”  | Giving the wind a human quality makes it even more threatening. Makes her point by accumulating details about what it means that the Santa Ana is beginning to blow. Those simple sentences reduce human behavior to irrefutable evidence. We can’t argue with what we see so clearly. Though she’s talking about restarting an argument with the phone company, the word makes us think of starting a fire, like the wind does up in the hills.  |

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| Source Text in MLA format:  |

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