

## Frank's journal

1 Week One

2 *If you wrote the story of your life now, what title would you give the story?*  
3 *Reflect on why you would name it in that way.*

4 *How many chapters would you give your story? Name the chapters and*  
5 *explain the significance of the chapter headings.*

6 *Where do God and religion fit into your story? Choose the chapter of your*  
7 *story in which God and religion seem to play a large part and write about why*  
8 *they were major characters in that part of your life.*

9 Growing, my life so far has been my development into the person I am and  
10 the person I will become. I believe that my growing has not finished. Once I  
11 have a steady routine, a family, set job and little change, then I believe my  
12 'growing' will slow down or be complete. I do believe however that the  
13 majority of my development of becoming the unique me has already been  
14 done.

15 5 chapters

16 1)The sponge years

17 2)Primary School

18 3)Lower highschool (8&9)

19 4)Years 10 & 11

20 5)Year 12, a year like no other.

21

22 The sponge years: It is said, and I agree, that until the age of five is the time  
23 in which most of our learning is completed. This rapid absorption of  
24 knowledge is likened to a sponge,

25 Primary School: Primary school wasn't really a memorable time. I wasn't yet  
26 very social and school was boring. The only influence on my life was three  
27 good friendships: Peter, Joel and Nathan.

28 Lower high school for me was daunting. I didn't know any other students  
29 when I came. However in these years I established three great friendships,  
30 two of which still last.

31 I suppose all I am doing is describing what happened in my chapters not why I  
32 named them so. I believe I divided them using school years because I am  
33 mathematically minded and simple.

34 A year like no other. I gave this to the Year 12 title because it is true. I  
35 witnessed shy, quiet people blossom and show who they were as I myself did,  
36 too. Friendships strengthened and new ones developed. At the same time,  
37 high expectations were pinned on us to perform well academically and huge  
38 work loads were overbearing. It is said that Year 12 is the hardest working  
39 year of your life, therefore, it is a year like no other.

40 Having gone to church all of my life and attended catholic schools all of my  
41 school life, religion has always been there. The major chapters for me would  
42 be from the beginning of Year Nine onwards. My Year Nine religion teacher

43 was fantastic. He fed my thought on religion after it was stifled by a poor RE  
44 teacher in Year 8. I actually got a D for RE in Year Nine but it was one of the  
45 best, in terms of religious development, RE classes I ever had. My semester  
46 one Yr 10 RE teacher was worse than a poor teacher. She was destructive  
47 and shouldn't be allowed to teach at all, especially RE. For me, however, this  
48 gave an opportunity to defend and argue my developing religious thoughts  
49 against an abusive teacher who believed you were wrong if you disagreed  
50 with her. My semester 2 Year 10 RE teacher was the complete opposite. He,  
51 a former Servite priest, was a friendly, nurturing man who was full of life,  
52 despite being old and having a bad hip. This man encouraged individual  
53 thought and, as did my Yr 11 & Yr 12 RE teacher, taught RE as a way of life,  
54 revealing tolerance to people with beliefs which differ from our own and a God  
55 who loves us who isn't some angry ruler who wants people to all live to the  
56 letter and be the same losing their uniqueness. As long as you follow the  
57 commandments & live a good life it's OK. We are only human and entitled to  
58 make mistakes. We just need to learn from them.

59

60 Week Two

61 *Recall a moment in your life when you were convinced that God exists or*  
62 *doesn't exist and that God cares or doesn't care for you.*

63 *Describe the situation.*

64 *Try to recall who or what acted as the catalyst, that is, which prompted you to*  
65 *recognise God's presence or absence in the situation in which you found*  
66 *yourself.*

67 *Describe how your thinking about God changes because of your encounter*  
68 *with this person or event.*

69 Exists – Recently, on my brother's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, my brother fell out of his  
70 second storey window, landed on his head and only suffered minor injuries  
71 and temporary memory loss. The fact that he could have died, broken his  
72 back, become a vegetable, or snapped his neck, but got away with a broken  
73 foot (His foot hit a ceramic flower box on the way down.) and a sore head is  
74 amazing. Every week I pray for God to take care of everyone in my family  
75 and that we he truly did.

76 Week Three

77 *Recall a religious education lesson that challenged you to change your ideas*  
78 *about your faith. Reflect on how your faith changed because of that lesson.*

79 *Try to recall how the change came about. What did you reflect on? Who*  
80 *helped you to re-think your belief?*

81 *How did the change in what you believed affect your attitude towards God and*  
82 *your religion?*

83 A religious education class concerning the death penalty. I used to feel that  
84 rapist should be killed but whether someone lives or dies is not up to any  
85 human beings.

86 The change was gradual and could probably be partly attributed to my own  
87 maturing. My RE teacher is the one who helped me come to my more  
88 practical understanding of faith in God and that he does or doesn't do things  
89 for a reason, eg, make the rapist drop dead and go to hell now.

90 I believe I am a more placid and open person now and have a stronger  
91 connection with God. It was hard to be close to God when you would be  
92 willing to kill another man.

93 Week Four

94 *Consider your future life as you would like it to become. What would be the*  
95 *main theme of the next chapter of your book?*

96 *Give the chapter a title and explain its significance.*

97 *How would you like your relationship with God to be in the future? What is*  
98 *there in your life at present or your present relationship with God that tells you*  
99 *that such a future is possible?*

100 Karaoke Dance Party

101 I want to buy a Karaoke bar and restaurant in Subiaco. Singing is one of the  
102 best ways to express yourself. It feels great (and to drunken people you  
103 sound great!). The title was inspired from Shrek, the cartoon movie; but the  
104 'Dance Party' section also represents that I want my life to be easy going and  
105 joy filled. I don't see my life being easy and joyful without God being a major  
106 part of it.

107 Knowing that God is forgiving and friendly as well as knowing that I want God  
108 to be part of my life is what tells me that God will always be a part of my life.

109

110 Concluding Remarks

111 *After looking back on what you have written in your journal, are there any final*  
112 *reflections about your life and your faith that you would like to offer to draw*  
113 *this part of your life to a close?*

114

115 Religious education classes with good teachers are a fantastic experience  
116 and help with the tough journey through TEE.