

# Journal Prompts

## Day 1 \* 6.17.14: What are your first impressions?

What did you notice when you got off the plane? When we hit the road? When we arrived in Mérida? What do you notice about the people (i.e., what they are doing, how they've interacted with you, how they dress, who is with them)? What do you notice about the land, the spaces you've been in so far? What has surprised you? Has anything shocked you? What was familiar?

## Day 2 \* 6.18.14: What is your experience of Language?

How does it feel to be surrounded by Spanish? What is it like to speak English in this context? If you are speaking Spanish, what is it like to speak Spanish here? What language do people use to speak to you - and who? What can you do/express because of your language skills? What can you not do because of your language skills? Have you found other ways to communicate besides speaking? What insights does this give you into the experiences of ELL students?

## Day 3 \* 6.19.14: What do you see relating to the economy?

What jobs do you see people doing? Who is doing what kind of job? What class differences do you observe? How is shopping different here than in the U.S.? How do you notice people relating to money? Do people talk about money? What connections can you make to what you've learned about the economic history of the region? How do you see this economy being connected to our economy in the U.S. and specifically in NC?

**Day 4 \* 6.20.14: What have you learned about history?**

What did you learn from seeing the ruins of Chichén Itza and Ek Balam? What have you learned about other historical periods in Yucatán? What was most impactful in what you saw or learned? What history have you "seen" in Mérida and Valladolid? What does it feel like to be in places of historical significance to the Maya people? What do you notice about the relationship between history and the tourist industry?

**Day 5 \* 6.21.14: What is small town life like?**

How is being in Felipe Carrillo Puerto different from being in Mérida or Valladolid? Do people interact with you differently? What do you notice about the stores, the roads, the houses, the restaurants? What do you see people doing? Do you feel more comfortable here or less (or equally comfortable)? Where do you see a Maya presence or influence in Carrillo? Do you see similarities in small town life here with rural towns in NC?

**Day 6 \* 6.22.14: Where do you notice a spiritual presence?**

Do people have spiritual/religious practices similar to yours? Does spirituality/religion seem to be important in your host family? Why do you think this is so? What symbols of spirituality/religion do you see around you in Carrillo? What is it like to practice your spirituality/religion in this context (if applicable)? Has this experience impacted your spiritual/religious beliefs or understandings?

**Day 7 \* 6.23.14: What is your experience with food?**

What Yucatecan food have you enjoyed? What is unique about the food here? Who cooks? Where do people eat? Who do they eat with? What do you think is the role of food in your host family? How are the practices around food here similar to or different from yours? Do you see food differently after this experience?

**Day 8 \* 6.24.14: What have you learned about education?**

What first struck you when you went into the schools we've visited? Of the things you heard the students and teachers say, what has stayed with you the most? Do you think that teachers here have different goals than those of teachers in the U.S.? Were there materials or activities that caught your eye? Do you notice differences in the physical interactions between teachers and students in Mexico vs. in the U.S.? What attitudes do the students seem to have toward the teacher? How much do the students seem to take initiative? How much does the teacher encourage students to take initiative in the class? What differences do you see between rural and urban schools? How do these visits make you see your own experience as a teacher differently? Are there things you want to take back to your classroom/school?

**Day 9 \* 6.25.14: What will you take home?**

What has been most impactful about this trip? What have you learned to do while you were here? What are some things you now know after having these experiences? What do you want to share with your family? What do you want to share with your students? What do you want to share with your fellow educators? How has this trip changed you?