



Expectations for Keeping a Writer's Notebook

Keeping a notebook is the single best way I know to survive as a writer. It encourages you to pay attention to your world, inside and out. It serves as a container to keep together all the seeds you gather until you're ready to plant them. It gives you a quiet place to catch your breath and begin to write.

~Ralph Fletcher, *Breathing In, Breathing Out: Keeping a Writer's Notebook* (1996,1)

Your notebook is a room of your own. It provides a safe place for you to ask:

- What do I notice?
- What do I care about?
- What really matters?
- What moves the deepest part of me?
- What haunts me?
- What do I want to remember—in my life, in this world—for the rest of my life?
- What do I want to write about?
- How might I begin?

~Ralph Fletcher, *Breathing In, Breathing Out: Keeping a Writer's Notebook* (1996,3)

Expectations

To read voraciously for pleasure,
 because there are so many great books
 To write or draw everything you think or feel or believe,
 because your thinking matters
 ~ Linda Rief

Adapted from *Inside the Writer's-Reader's Notebook* by Linda Rief (2007).

Keeping Your Writer's Notebook



Maintain Your:

- ❖ Literacy Log (inside front cover)
- ❖ Genre Chart (page 1)
- ❖ RFP Planner (page 200)
- ❖ Books I want to Read List (page 4)
- ❖ Ideas for Writing List (page 5)

Response Section

- ❖ To collect writing ideas and initial drafts of writing.
- ❖ To collect/respond to/react to/reflect on reading (books, magazines, instructions, other classes, etc.), writing, observations, and discoveries about yourself, others, and the world with _____ pages of writing, collected pictures, charts, cartoons, lists, drawings per week.
- ❖ To read for _____ each night, _____ times per week.
- ❖ To record _____ entries per week. An entry label looks like this:
Date, Title of Book (or Magazine and "Article")
Author, Pages read
- ❖ To read with a writer's eye—what are you noticing/learning about writing from the writers you read?
- ❖ To collect at least one poem per month, glued or written into your Writer's Notebook (WN) with an explanation of why you chose this poem and how it reflects you and your thinking at the moment.

Notes Section

- ❖ To record all notes given in class.
- ❖ To maintain a Table of Contents for these lessons/instructions, so you can easily find and use the information.

Vocabulary Section

- ❖ To "find" at least _____ words per week that are new or unknown (from reading, listening, talking, in or out of school). These are words you'd like to begin to use in your speaking and writing.
- ❖ To write each word in the vocab section of this WN in the sentence in which you found the word and with the appropriate definition (based on the context of the sentence) written in our own words.
- ❖ To look for and record each new context in which you discover the same word again (this counts as a new word: same word in new context) with the appropriate definition.

Spelling Matters Section

- ❖ To maintain *Spelling Rules* and *Personal Spelling Lists* (the last section in your WN).
- ❖ When given the correct spelling of words on your pre-final draft in language arts or any other class, to write those words under the rule that applies to their spelling, or through usage, or on your Personal Spelling List when they are the exception to all the rules.

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