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Notebook Know-How: Strategies For The Writer's Notebook



Synopsis

A writer's notebook is an essential springboard for the pieces that will later be crafted in writers' workshop. It is here that students brainstorm topics, play with leads and endings, tweak a new revision strategy, or test out a genre for the first time. In *Notebook Know-How*, Aimee Buckner provides the tools teachers need to make writers' notebooks an integral part of their writing programs. She also addresses many of the questions teachers ask when they start using notebooks with their students, including: How do I launch the notebook? What mini-lessons can be used throughout the year to help students become more skilled in keeping notebooks? How do I help students who are stuck in writing ruts with notebooks? How do I help students use their learning from notebooks for other writing? How do I organize notebooks so that the design is flexible, yet still allows students to access information easily? How can writers' notebooks help students become better readers? How do I assess notebooks? This compact guide is packed with lessons, tips, and samples of student writing to help teachers make the most of writers' notebooks, without sacrificing time needed for the rest of the literacy curriculum. In fact, *Notebook Know-How* shows how smart and focused use of writers' notebooks enhances and deepens literacy learning in both reading and writing for students in grades 3-8.

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Customer Reviews

The techniques are not simply prompts to direct student writing, but are student-centered approaches that allow for a deep investment of students in their own learning to write process.

Aimee Buckner has been in education for more than twenty years. She thrives on the idea that teaching is about helping students develop intellectually, physically, and emotionally. The writer's notebook helps her carve out a place in the curriculum to allow students to truly be themselves and find their own voice. Aimee continues to consult both nationally and internationally as well as speak at state and national conventions. Aimee is a contributor to Choice Literacy and is the author of two other books with Stenhouse Publishers: *A Notebook Know-How: Strategies for the Writer's Notebook* and *A Notebook Connections: Strategies for the Reader's Notebook*.

When I initially saw that Ms. Buckner's focus was on elementary students, I wondered whether I would find it helpful. I am a high school social studies teacher and was looking to focus more on writing. I have decided to use a writer's notebook next year. This is one of several books I've read as I look for ideas. While Ms. Buckner's examples focus on the elementary grades, I still found a lot to think about. From notebook set up to the question of whether to evaluate the notebook, Buckner gave me a lot to consider. I find myself going back to this book. If you are a high school teacher looking to find "the one book" that shows you how to set up a writer's notebook for older students, you might not find this to be focused enough on your grade level. Teachers of older students should also look at books by P. Kittle and K. Gallagher. That being said, I am very pleased to have this book in my library and have recommended it to others. If I taught elementary grades, I would say this book is a must have.

I'm a new teacher and used this book to get started with using a journal/notebook with my writing and English students (middle school and high school). This is a great book! It is well written and well organized, and I felt much more prepared to use the notebooks to teach writing after reading this book. I have already put several things from this book into place, including the tip about using the back of the journal for generating ideas for them. Of all of the books I have bought to help me with teaching English and Writing this is one of my favorites. Nice job, Ms. Buckner, and thank you.

good

I am in the process of implementing writing workshop in my 10th grade class. Although this is for

lower grade levels, I was still able to relate. I now have a better understanding of how to structure the workshop model, and I loved the mini lessons.

This is the right book I needed for my class. I appreciate the ease of downloading onto my kindle, and wish I could have done the same with all the other books I needed.

This book is chock-full of awesome ideas for both writers and teachers of young, budding writers. As a student teacher in a middle school writing-focused classroom, this book has been an awesome resource in helping my students develop their own writer's notebooks as well as my own. The strategies in this book not only help with the creative writing aspect of a writer's notebook, but also with the real-life application of these writing strategies. Sometimes you have to make obvious the connections between the strategies you are teaching them from this book and the real world, but to any teacher that shouldn't be something new that they are doing. The author does an excellent job of relating her own teaching experiences, as well as her writing experiences, to the strategies, which are written easy enough to understand, but not so easy that you are confused as to how the strategy works. A must have for anyone looking to expand their repertoire of creative, get the brain juices flowing activities.

The book helped me set the course for a new school year. Though I haven't used many of the ideas yet, my fourth graders liked the list making idea. They started writing right away and loved to share their stories. I'm looking forward to moving ahead with more ideas from the book.

Includes many ideas that can be immediately used in the classroom to enhance student writing. Very clearly written with many real examples from student writing. A great guide for those new to writer's workshop and for more experienced writing teachers looking for some fresh approaches.

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