

## **Writer's Notebook**

Coach: Barbara Conway  
Franklin Elementary  
Santa Barbara Unified School District  
Grade(s): K-2  
English Language Arts

### Description

The daily writing of primary students in their "Writer's Notebooks" is the key to their success as fluent, confident writers. Writer's Notebooks help a teacher maximize the effects of writing lessons and strategies.

The purpose of a notebook is to provide a place for students to practice writing. It is a place for them to find ideas and practice what they know about spelling and grammar.

The second starting point in their Notebooks is from the back of the notebook, working toward the front. Here my students paste in and take notes from lessons, such as revision strategies, editing strategies, and grammar notes.

Examples of Possible Mini-Lesson Topics:

- Showing not telling,
- Adding information,
- Sequencing information,
- Reading one's own writing as part of the writing process,
- Spacing between words,
- Listening for sounds and using invented spelling
- Using drawings as a starting point for writing
- Beginning to put periods in when the writing pauses
- Recognizing words we can spell, (no excuse words),
- Including details, specific information
- Recalling visual spelling

This strategy can serve as a jumping off place for launching the Common Core writing types: Narrative, Opinion, and Information Writing as well as their pieces and stories in Writer's Workshop. Team members will share and evaluate student writing after learning and implementing the strategy. Team members will need composition books.

### Strategy Team Meetings

Strategy Team will start this process with their own blank Writer's Notebook, and the team will meet with their own personal Writer's Notebooks and examples of students' journals and student work throughout the year. The team will begin with specific ideas and strategies that will help launch the notebooks and ideas for mini lessons that they

need to improve their students writing but most importantly to inspire their students to love to write.

#### About the Coach

Barbara is a South Coast Writing Project Fellow, ScWrip, and has taught at the Writer's Camp at UCSB to the best young Santa Barbara Writer's for many years. Barbara has also been the primary ELA Liaison for Franklin school. Barbara loves teaching and inspiring her students.