

*Content and Reflective Writing Across
the Curriculum
&
LOD Journal Writing*

Developing Strong Writers:

How writing is acquired

- Early literacy experiences are embedded in the familiar and real-life experiences
- Learn about writing through explicit instruction and observing others more skilled than themselves
 - (Jalongo, 2007)



- **Need to write in social settings**
 - Talk about what they write
 - Imitate the more literate other
- Need to write independently
 - Become more conscious of what they know.

Developing Strong Writers:
How writing is acquired

Purposes of Early Writing in School

- To create a situation that promotes risk taking
- To demonstrate effective writing strategies
- To help children learn how to apply their existing knowledge to problem-solving in different places and with new information
- Use of print to represent ideas



Research Support

- Linking students background with culturally relevant texts creates opportunities for making inferences and asking questions (Jiménez, 1997).
- The more familiar the language of the text:
 - closer the readers' predictions will match the author's expression
 - easier the text will be ...to comprehend (Goodman, 1982).

Journal Writing

- ❑ A journal is a daily record of a student's thoughts on various topics.
- ❑ Journals provide a nonthreatening place to explore learning, feelings, happenings, and language through writing

Benefits of Journal Writing

- ❑ Promotes fluency in writing
- ❑ Promotes fluency in reading
- ❑ Encourages risk-taking
- ❑ Promotes thinking and makes it visible
- ❑ Provides a vehicle for evaluation

Setting the tone: Introducing journal writing

- The way journal is introduced often determines how receptive students will be to it.
 - Allow time for ORAL brainstorming
 - Demonstrate often the process by oral sharing and WRITING yourself
 - Do not judge students' handwriting, spelling, or where they may be in the writing process.

Journal Writing

☐ 4 Content area journals

- ☐ Language Arts (ELA/SLA)

- ☐ Math

- ☐ Science

- ☐ Social Studies

☐ LOD Journal

- ☐ Red journal for Spanish

- ☐ Blue journal for English

LOD Journals

- ❑ Students write about topics that interest them, every day
 - ❑ Favorite book, pass time
 - ❑ Experiences at home or recess in school
 - ❑ Their feelings, reactions to something (Reader's Response)
- ❑ Allow students to write about whatever they want.
- ❑ Provide prompts, pictures, realia for ideas and motivation
- ❑ Write-Pair-Share

Content Area Journals

- ❑ Introduces students to ways of analyzing what they think and prompts them to ask why they think that way.
- ❑ Journal writing serves as an appropriate means for students to display how well they have integrated course material.
- ❑ Teachers can use journal writing exercises to assess student progress.

Prompts to Help Students Reflect

- Get together with people that teach in the same grade you teach.
- Make a list of prompts you can use to help students reflect (5 for each content area)
- Make a list of different activities you can use to engage students in writing for each of the content areas.

Journals for Learning

- Journals serve as a tool for learning. They can be used to help students figure out things and make sense of information learned
- They can be used to:
 - start discussion
 - review key ideas
 - summarize learning
 - reflect on learning

A Couple More Tips....

- ☐ Journals are never subject to correction
- ☐ Do not grade the journals
- ☐ Make students aware of resources they have around the classroom to help them with their journal writing (word walls, word banks, SVE charts)
- ☐ Focus on the process, not the product
- ☐ Meaning over mechanics
- ☐ Provide a risk free environment
- ☐ Model
- ☐ Give students anchor cues