

If...Then...Units

Living Like a Writer: Tools, Habits, Spaces & Process

IF you are wanting to help support your students discover the tools, spaces, habits and process unique to them as writers...THEN you might want to lean on this suggested list of mini lessons to guide them as they grow and live as writers.

Consider this list as a menu of possibilities, selecting only the teaching points that meet the needs of your students. You may use your assessment data, observations, and other information to decide on a plan that is tailored to the needs of your class. These teaching points may be used as whole-group mini lessons, mid-workshop teach points, or to support conferences and small-group work. You need not use every teaching point. Also, you may use the teaching points you have selected in any order and at any time throughout the year, according to need.

TOOLS

- Introducing the notebook: The notebook is a tool for collecting ideas, noticing things we like in the world, and noticing our own thoughts
- Sharing different notebooks such as your own or from other authors and artists
- Keeping sticky notes and other writing tools close by
- Trying out different kinds of paper (sketch paper, graph paper, lines vs. no lines, size, etc.)
- Using tools that make the process easier to get thoughts down quickly without distractions

SPACES

- Listing places and spaces where we can write
- Trying out different spots in the room
- Trying out different spots at home and discussing when we get back to class the next day
- Noticing the places we get more writing done

HABITS

- Noticing when you write the most (longer vs. shorter time periods)
- Building Fluency and Stamina: Chart and discuss these questions (How did the writing time go? What can we do about it? What does it say about you as a writer?)
- Exploring solutions or alternatives for issues like distractions or not knowing what to write

PROCESS

- Reviewing the writing process
- Asking questions about your own process as a writer (How do I get started in the notebook? What are some of the ways I collect around a topic? What strategies do I use to plan and design a piece? Do my drafts flow easier on paper or when I'm typing? What is my revision process like? What are some revision techniques that work best for me?)
- Reflecting on your process after publishing