

Write About That!

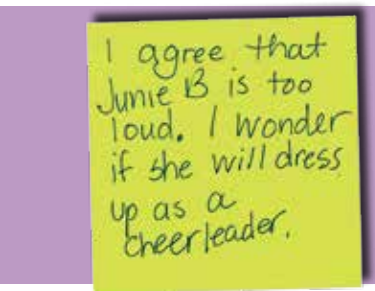
Tips for Using Student Journals in the Classroom

The new Common Core State Standards bring with them a renewed emphasis on writing. One effective way to build writing skills is through journaling. See for yourself how journals can be used across the curriculum with these simple ideas!



Math

Give each student a 100-page notebook, such as an Office Depot® Brand Marble Composition Book (Item #725163). Have the student write the numeral 1 at the top of the first page, the numeral 2 on the second page, and so on until he reaches the numeral 100. Announce a problem that relates to the numeral 1 and a current math topic, such as “Draw a model of a fraction that has a numerator of 1 and explain your model.” The student completes the challenge on the numeral 1 page of his journal. Throughout the year, have students complete a similar problem that uses the next number in the journal.



Reading

Divide students into pairs and give each child a sticky note. For a note with plenty of writing space, try Post-it® 3" x 3" Super Sticky Pop-up Notes (Item #655185). Each student writes about the day's reading selection in her reading journal. Then the two partners swap journals. After studying her partner's entry, each student writes a response on her sticky note and places it on the journal page. Partners then return their journals and discuss the responses.



Writing

Give each student a small notebook, such as the Office Depot® Brand 55% Recycled Mini Marble Composition Book (Item #323629). Whenever an interesting topic comes up during the day, call out, “Now that's a ‘write’ idea!” Then have the class brainstorm two or three related topics to write about. Have students quickly record the topics in their journals. After just a few sessions, students will have plenty of writing topics to choose from!



Language

To build sentence-writing skills, label an inexpensive hardbound journal “Super Sentences Journal.” When you spot a particularly strong sentence in a student's written work, mark it with a colorful highlighter, such as a FORAY® Liquid Ink Highlighter with a Chisel Tip (Item #508624). Have the student copy the sentence inside the journal and sign and date the entry. When you need a sample sentence for a lesson on conventions or mechanics, you'll have a ready source!