Great Supplies for Your Primary Grade Writing Workshop

Libby Duggan
Butler University

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Great Supplies for Your Primary Grade Writing Workshop

Paper

Young writers need a lot of paper options. Some are ready to fill up a page with words, others may need unlined paper so they can concentrate on getting the shapes of the letters written well. Still other young writers may need a few lines with space to draw pictures to supplement their words. Different genres or stages of writing may necessitate different papers, too. Writing on a page is perfect for poetry, for example, and fancy scrapbook-like paper can be used for final publications. A wide range of paper choices is exciting and less intimidating for students than a one-size-fits-all option.

I love the handout at left that IPYW coach Mary Roderigue shared at a Summer Institute. It has thumbnail images of the types of paper Mary prints for her students. The headings in the left-hand column to saw the whole document.

Pens

Writing workshop teachers prefer that students use pens instead of pencils, because ink cannot be erased. This allows us to see all of the work and thinking that students have done. We also know we can get a good idea about how to teach a child to study their mistakes, so we want the errors to be visible. You might want to try using different colored pens at different stages of the writing process – black for drafts and blue for final revisions, for example.

I have found that the type of pen matters as well. Filling a pen works well for young children who are still developing motor control. The felt tip pen in the page more often allows children more control than a roller ball pen that slides too easily across the page.

Folders and Gallon Ziploc Bags

Managing your primary grade students' writing in notebooks yet, but they are writing a lot of stuff! This is why it's important that you have children who have writing can see their work. We keep our young writers' folders in the classroom all the time, so no one if their papers or projects gets lost. Frequently, usually when Ministering to a new unit of study, my students cleared out their folders to make room for new projects. We moved in gallon Ziploc bags that I also kept in the classroom until the end of the year. This way, we could put old projects for short revision studies. Students took their projects home at the end of the school year.

Date Stampers

Keeping up with your students' work every day (or dated breakdown) can get confusing! The folders on track and assess students' progress. Instead of asking students to hand write the date on each page, you may want to pick up some self-inking date stampers around the classroom. Students like using these, and they are more likely to remember to date their work. Date stampers can also be used to note any holidays, to cover up their thinking in the early stages of writing and final publication and celebration. You don't want students editing and making projects ready for publication. Just be sure to keep the correction tape handy until days before final publication and celebration. You don't want students to cover up their thinking in the early stages of writing and drafting.

Scissors, Tape and Correction Tape

Crosswords are everywhere! When you provide children with scissors, there will be times when young writers realize the words they first put in a book aren't working anymore. You can use physical scissors, tape and scrap paper to replace texts that aren't working as well as the “cut and paste” functions in word processing software.

Clippers

Scrolls for the classroom. Consider these different stages of editing and making projects ready for publication, just be sure to keep the correction tape handy until days before final publication and celebration. You don't want students to cover up their thinking in the early stages of writing and drafting.

Clipboards

Clips for the classroom. Consider these different stages of editing and making projects ready for publication, just be sure to keep the correction tape handy until days before final publication and celebration. You don't want students to cover up their thinking in the early stages of writing and drafting.

Art Supplies

Illustrate the students make so important to the words they write. Often the pictures in a text enhance or add meaning to the words on the page. By providing students with markers, crayons, watercolor paints, collage paper, etc., we help them recognize and develop the significance of their even illustrations.

Picture Books, Magazines, Cookbooks, Board Game Directions, etc

Last but certainly not least, young writers need access to texts that are the same kind they will be asked to write. In a writing workshop, some of the time should be given to exposing students to recipes, directions for board games and instructions for crafts that they choose in the classroom. In magazines you might see the world as a teacher of writing, asking children what you can teach the texts you encounter while browsing on vacation, shopping for birthday cards or reading the Sunday paper on the basis of different genres of writing. To me, this is the perfect time to introduce new, adding to it every chance you get.