

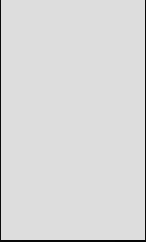
# Writer's Notebook



# The Writer's Notebook...

“A writer's notebook works just like an incubator; a protective place to keep your infant idea safe and warm, a place for it to grow while it is too young, too new, to survive on its own. “

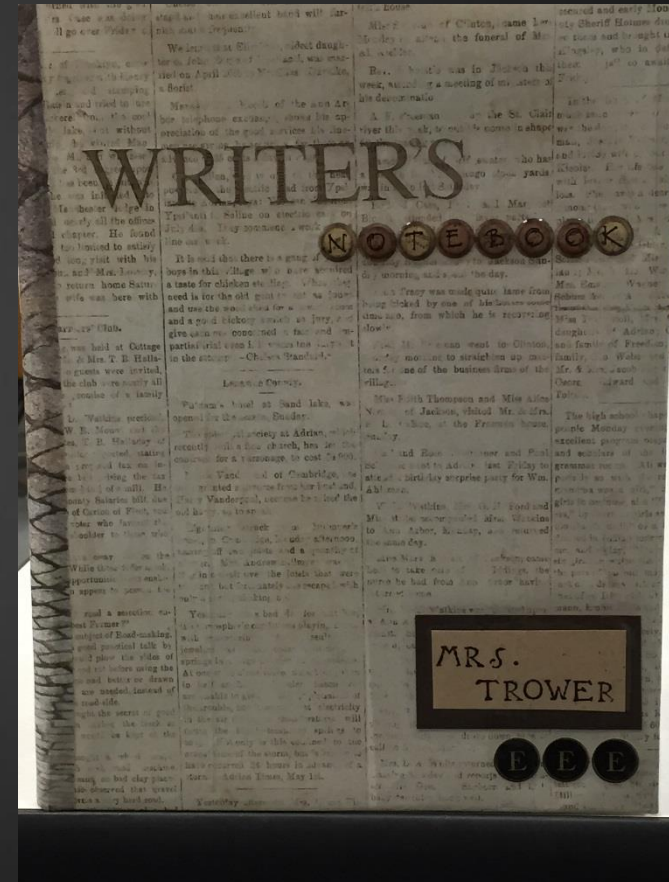
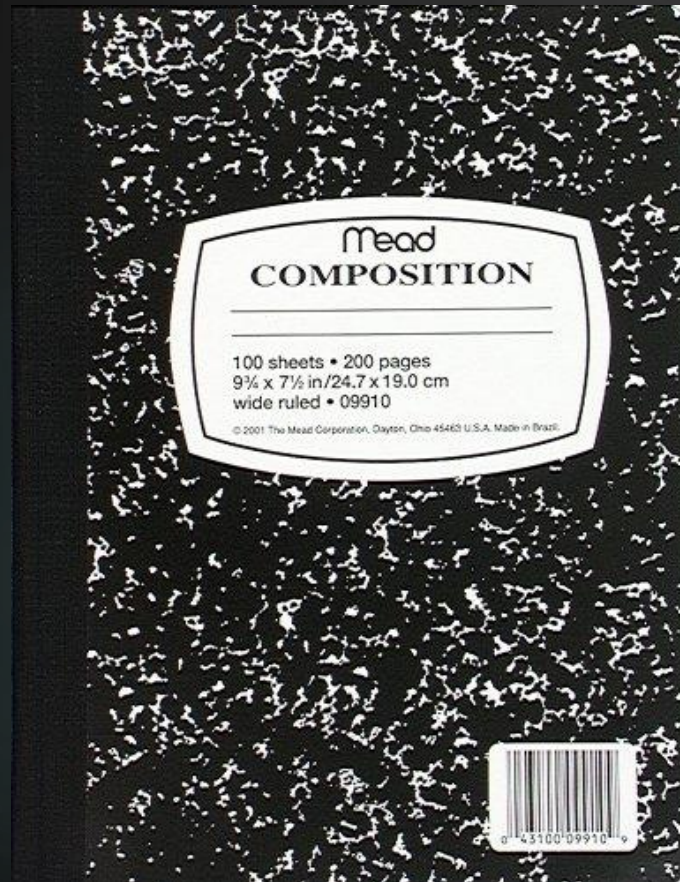
- Ralph Fletcher



"The act of writing is an act of thought... We write to think-to be surprised by what appears on the page; to explore our world with language to discover meaning that teaches us and may be worth sharing with others. We do not know what we want to say before we say it; we write to know what we want to say."

-Donald Murray

# Personalizing Your Writer's Notebook



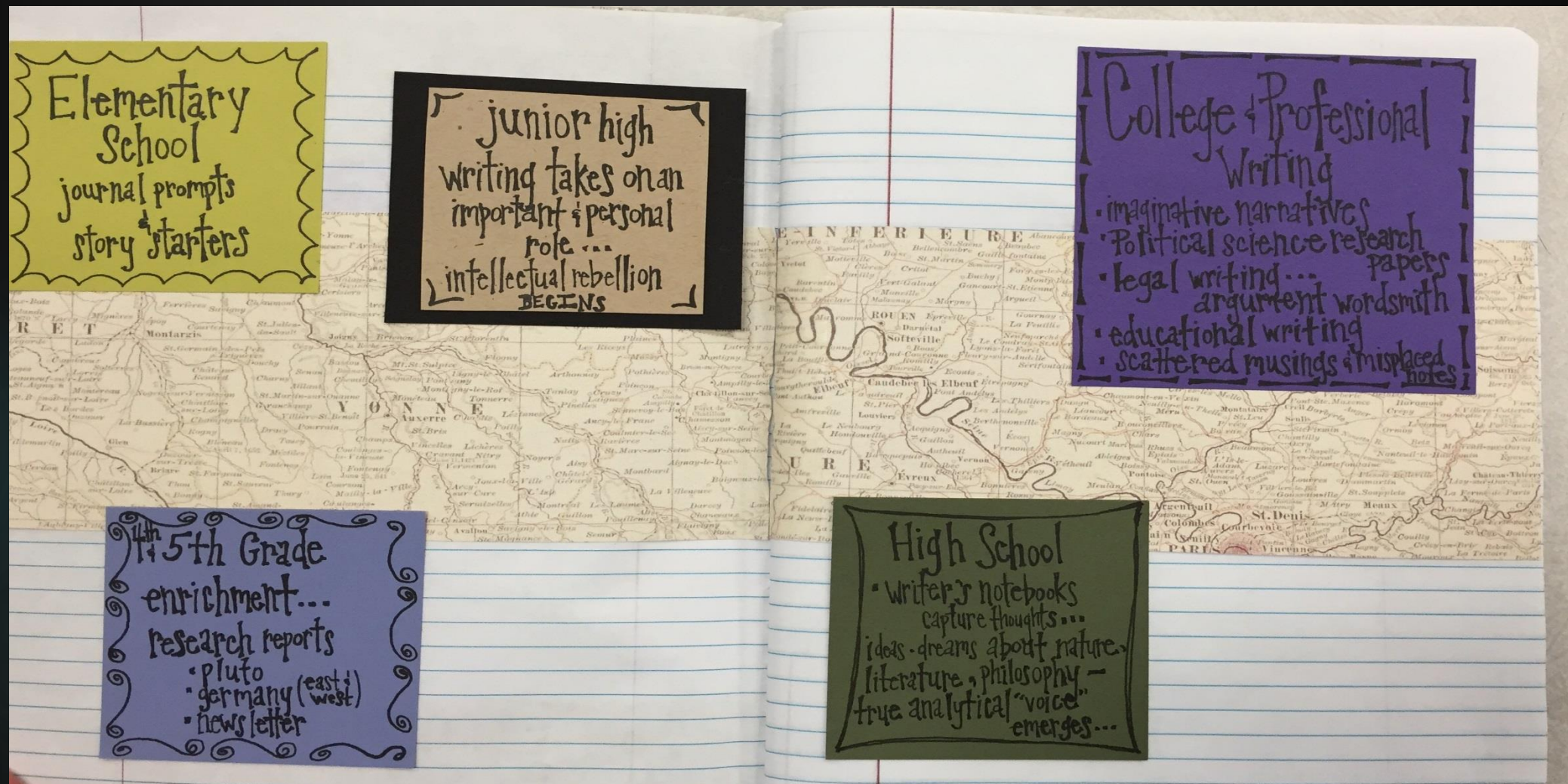
# Personalizing Your Writer's Notebook

- ▶ You may have up to 3 sheets of scrapbook paper to cover the spine, front, and back of your notebook (please keep all scraps)
- ▶ You may decorate the outside of your notebook with anything you bring from home (photos, stickers, letters, etc.)

# Setting Up Your Writer's Notebook

- ▶ Page 1 - Leave this page blank for now
- ▶ Pages 2 & 3 - My Writing Timeline
- ▶ Page 4 - Writing Timeline Reflection
- ▶ Page 5 - "I am" or "Heart Map"

# My Writing Timeline (pages 2 & 3)



# Writing Timeline Reflection

## Writing Timeline Reflections

I HAVE ENJOYED WRITING FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER. I FIND IT INTERESTING THAT MY FIRST TRULY MEMORABLE WRITING EXPERIENCES WERE IN ENRICHMENT DURING 4TH & 5TH GRADE. HOWEVER, I DON'T RECALL WRITING ANY CREATIVE PIECES. WHILE I APPRECIATE MY EARLY EXPOSURE TO RESEARCH WRITING, THE WRITING EXPERIENCES I HAD DURING JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL HAD THE GREATEST IMPACT ON ME.

I MISS THE RAW HONESTY OF WRITING WITHOUT PREMEDITATED CONSTRAINTS. I HAVE GROWN INTO A COMFORTABLE ROUTINE IN ADULTHOOD OF WRITING RESEARCH PAPER AFTER RESEARCH PAPER WITH A RESPECTABLE AMOUNT OF ENJOYMENT BUT HAVE WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO WRITE ONCE AGAIN SIMPLY FROM THE WONDERINGS AND WANDERINGS OF THIS UNCONSTRAINED MIND.

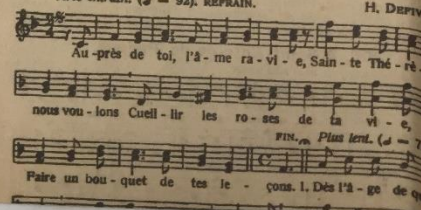
200

Cantiques de la Jeunesse

206. A Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus  
(1<sup>er</sup> CANTIQUE — SA VIE).

Avec entrain. (♩ = 92). REFRAIN.

H. DEPIVRE

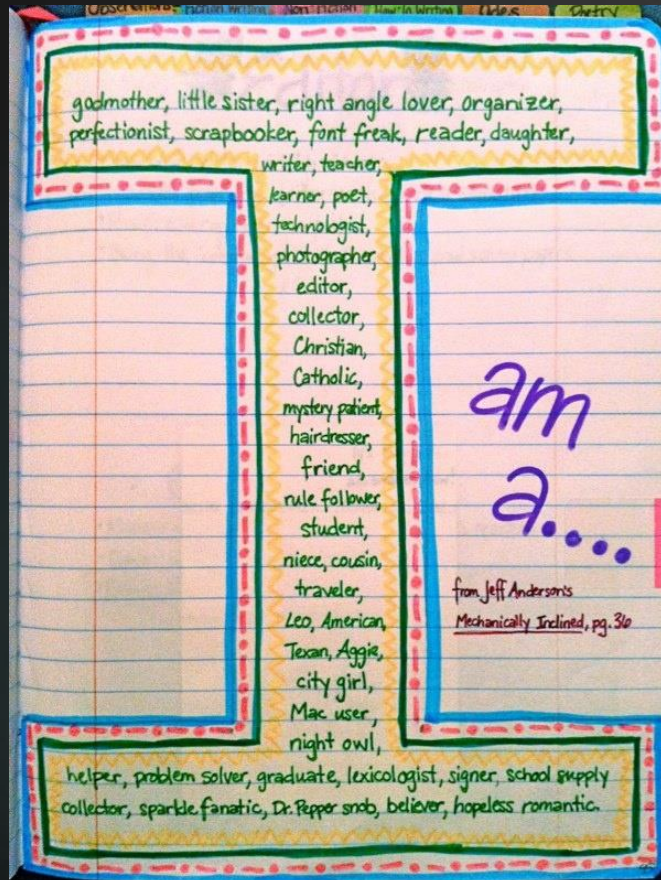


# “Heart Map” (page 5)

Draw a BIG heart on your paper- it should take up the ENTIRE page! Fill your heart with things you love: words, phrases, quotes, cut outs, pictures, etc...



# “I am” (page 5)



Draw an outline of a CAPITAL “I” on your paper- it should take up the ENTIRE page! Fill your “I” with words that describe who you are.

# Mark notebook sections using tabs



MR. LINDEN'S LIBRARY

He had owned her about the best  
time of her life.

The Story Behind the Pictures



# Narrative Imaginative Writing



MR. LINDEN'S LIBRARY

“He had warned her  
about the book. Now it  
was too late.”

# Rough Draft

She found herself dreaming long before the words slipped off the page and into her mind. The soft glow of her lamp provided just enough white light to sharply contrast the half of her room shrouded in darkness. The same darkness that would take her...

She was ageless; trapped in a place where time knew no bounds. Little did she know...

The delicate fingers of her left hand drifted off into a slumber, separate but not too distant from the slumber of her dreams.

The contrast between darkness and light created...

- Mrs. Trower

# What Writers Do...

Writers pay particularly close attention to the world around them. They record their observations and thoughts in a writer's notebook. They pay particularly close attention to sensory details so that they can include them in their writing. Using the five senses (sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch) in writing helps to show the reader the situation and it helps them to feel what it's really like to be there.

# Writing from a Photograph or Postcard...

- Find a photo or postcard...any photo or postcard. Tape the photo or postcard in your writer's notebook. Tell its story, the story behind it, or the story inspired by the it!

# Writing from an Artifact...

- ▶ Ticket stubs from a memorable event
- ▶ A letter or postcard from a special person
- ▶ Magazine or newspaper headline or article

# Magical Paths...

Choose a picture from  
the Magical Paths folder  
on my website and use it  
as the setting for your  
story



# Mystical Bridges...

Choose a picture from  
the Mystical Bridges  
folder on my website  
and use it as the setting  
for your story



# Dream Blending (Narrative)

Imagine that you fell asleep while reading your history textbook and your favorite storybook at the same time. What would happen if the two stories came together in your dream? Use your imagination to rewrite your favorite story in a different time period in history.

# Writing about Memories...

- ▶ Jot down memories related to...
- ▶ A favorite moment or event (party, trip, family gathering, etc.)
- ▶ A favorite person
- ▶ A favorite object

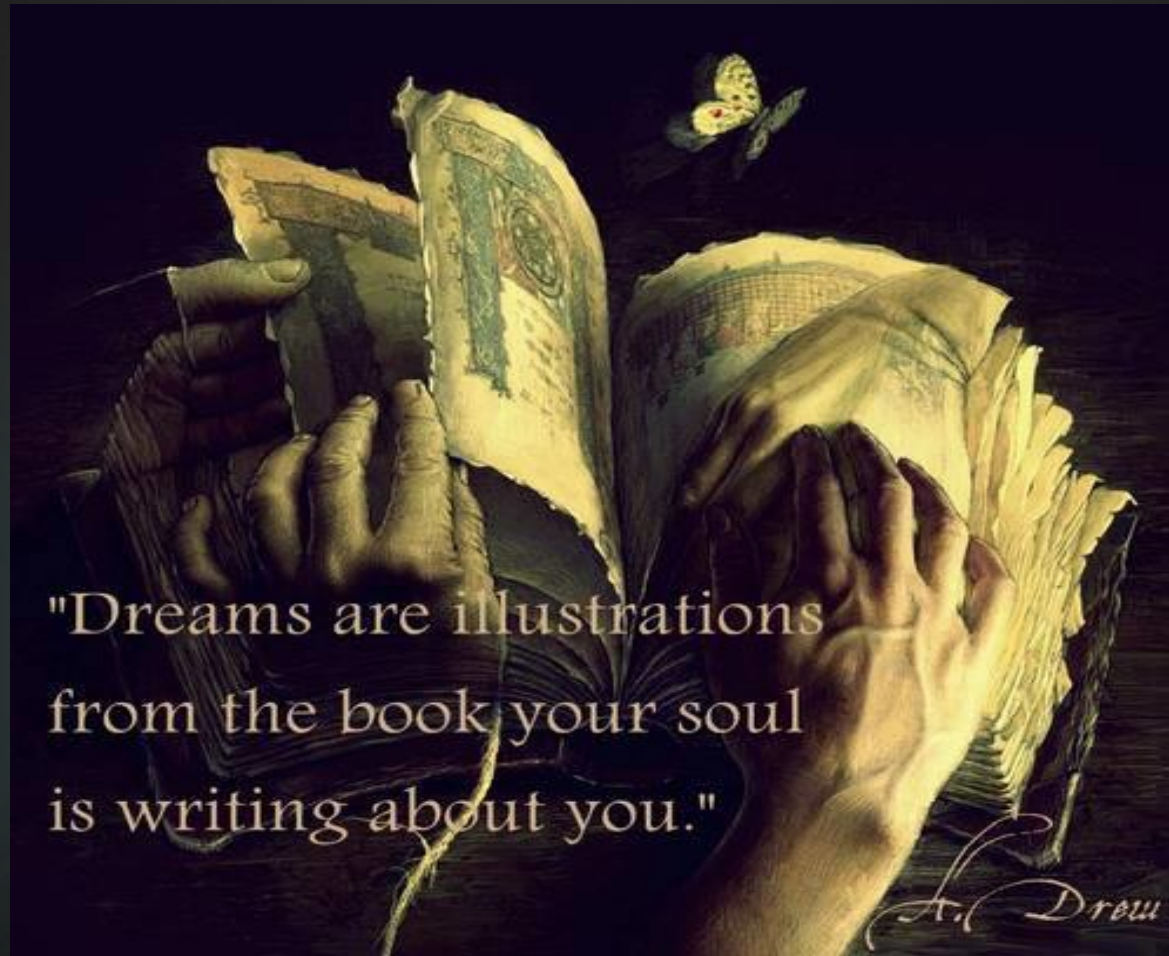
# Sketches, drawings or doodles...



# My Life's Playlist...



# Writing about Dreams...



"Dreams are illustrations  
from the book your soul  
is writing about you."

*A. Drew*

# Other Writing Ideas...

- ▶ **Snatches of Talk AKA Creeping on Others**  
(Conversations around you and/or how you feel)
- ▶ **Writing in response to music**
- ▶ **Writing about random objects**
- ▶ **Respond to a book, story or poem and say how it speaks to you.**
- ▶ **Unforgettable Stories:** Stories that you read in the newspapers or see on TV. Stories that inspire or tug and the heart strings. How do they affect you?

# Other Writing Ideas...

- ▶ **Fierce Wonderings:** What questions haunt or nag at you, make you wonder, keep you up at night? List a bunch of questions, or attempt to answer some—either seriously or humorously
- ▶ **Write Small:** Notice the small details that say so much about a person or place. Pick a person or object and describe it in as much detail as possible
- ▶ **Seed Ideas:** Ideas that could grow into a piece such as a journal or essay
- ▶ **Stories about Strangers:** Sit somewhere and observe someone/a group of people (make sure it's people you don't already know!) and create their stories. Who are they? What's currently going on in their lives?

# Other Writing Ideas...

- ▶ **Lists of Things:** Things that Irritate Me, Family Stories, Top 5's, Bottom 5's, Alphabet, Either/Or, "I Wish", Bucket Lists, Pro/Con lists for upcoming decisions, Would You Rather?
- ▶ **Vivid Memories:** What's your first memory? Your most memorable moment? A time when you were most excited, scared, disappointed, sad, nervous, happy, traumatized, etc.? Describe it in as much detail as possible.
- ▶ **Venting:** What is on your mind? Write about a decision you have to make, frustrations at your job, road rage, etc.
- ▶ **Picture Writes:** Include a picture from anywhere—online, magazine, your photos, etc. and build a story around the picture

# Other Writing Ideas...

- ▶ **Writing Strikes!:** Collect your favorite lines/sentences/words from other authors/musicians
- ▶ “If I were \_\_\_\_\_ (opposite gender, general profession, someone you know, celebrity, etc.) I Would...”
- ▶ “A Day in the Life of \_\_\_\_\_ (opposite gender, general profession, someone you know, celebrity, etc.)”—could be serious or humorous
- ▶ “I Can’t Imagine Living Without \_\_\_\_\_” What are the little things in life we often take for granted? What would you do if you didn’t have these things?
- ▶ **Conversation I’ll Never Have/Letter I’ll Never Send:** What do you wish you could say to someone but can’t/didn’t for whatever reason?
- ▶ **Imagine people as superheroes/villains.** What powers would they have?

# Other Writing Ideas...

- ▶ **Mock Awards:** create awards for people you know, or what awards would well-known people have received in high school?
- ▶ **6 word stories—write** a complete story in 6 words
  - ▶ Hemingway once wrote a story in just six words ("For sale: baby shoes, never worn.") and is said to have called it his best work. Create some of your own, or Google six word stories—create full stories from others' or write your thoughts about them.
- ▶ **Facebook statuses/Tweets—**make up this info for celebrities/fictional characters, copy (anonymously) ones you see and comment
- ▶ **Parodies of popular stories—**rewrite pieces of well-known books, movies, etc.

# Other Writing Ideas...

- ▶ **Mad libs**—Create one and have someone fill in the blanks
- ▶ **Acrostic Poems**
- ▶ **Graphic Writes**—create pictures using words
- ▶ **Original Creative Writing** (picture story, poems, song lyrics, etc.)
- ▶ **Interviews**—real or made up
- ▶ **Reviews**—movies, new TV shows, school events, sports, current events, etc.

# Other Writing Ideas...

- ▶ **Coded Stories**—write a message in code and have someone solve it
- ▶ **Partner Writes**—write a story/entry together—could alternate lines/sentences/etc.
- ▶ **Comic Strip**
- ▶ **Cut out Word Collage**—paste pictures or words from magazines or newspapers, then write about what they mean to you/why you chose them
- ▶ **Notable quotes:** what are some of your favorite quotes from songs, books, movies, people, etc.? What do they mean to you?