

Wow Journals

By Maggie Hogan

Taking notes, writing essays, keeping journals, researching and organizing thoughts are all wonderful methods of discovery and learning.

Notebooks/Journals are HANDS ON

- What we perform, we remember
- If it's enjoyable we are motivated to do more.

Keeping a notebook is a time-honored way to:

- Learn research skills & Develop writing skills
- Improve orderly thinking skills
- Cultivate independent study habits

Keeping student notebooks also provides:

- an outlet for creativity
- an opportunity to develop note-taking skills
- a place to practice penmanship and drawing
- a permanent record of what was learned

Ideas for ways in which to use notebook pages:

- Chronological note taking of each week's lesson.
- Summary of each time period or event covered.
- Diary approach - writing as if the student were in the story.
- Repository for meaningful items. Attach with tape:

- postcards, pictures or drawings, brochures, ticket stubs, maps
- Recording data about significant people.
- Top lines may be used for quoting a primary source or Bible verse.

Notebook Ideas by Subject

Science

- Develop orderly/logical thinking
- Observations
- Journal entries
- Vocabulary/terms
- Diagrams/pictures
- Experiments
- Success & Failures
- Ideas/brainstorms

Science Examples: bird or tree field guide, rocks & minerals, work from a text but your student writes their own student book, Daily nature observations, Scientists & inventions.

History

Biographies/autobiographies

Chronological study of a time period. Sections for:

- Rulers
- Famous People
- Battles
- Cultures

- Socio-economics
- Politics
- Timeline
- Drawings: Maps, routes, illustrations of discoveries, inventions, clothing/cultural items, famous people or landmarks
- Insert: postcards, brochures, ticket stubs, maps, money, etc.

Literature

Journal/Diary

Creative Writing

Essays and letters

Poetry

Book analysis

Vocabulary/Spelling

Book and/or movie reviews

Fine Arts

Music, art, and theatre are all good subjects for notebooks

Write your own music, plays, etc.

Copywork

Terms

Famous people

Goals

Art/music/theatre reviews

Bible Studies

Copying scripture

Favorite verses

Studies on people

Theme studies (i.e. Life of Christ, pride, prophecies, etc.)

Word studies (i.e. love, grace, etc.)

Vocabulary

Map work

Heroes of the faith

Notes from sermons, Sunday school, etc.