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Looking Through the Lens

Setting Up Science Notebooks

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A great way to start off the school year is to establish science notebooks in your classroom. You can start with a class science notebook, where all members contribute, or individual student notebooks. When building a large classroom notebook, all you need is butcher paper and a plan. Each notebook, classroom or individual, could include the following:

- Table of Contents
- Word Bank
- Dividers

An ideal way to begin science notebooks is asking students what they would expect

to find in a real scientist's notebook. Chart their ideas and leave posted to encourage diversity in their notebooks.

There are many ways to start the notebooks in your classroom. Beginning with an observation is a simple way to introduce students to using a science notebook. Encourage students to sketch what they see, not just write. Using their senses, and a hand lens, describe the item. Share the notebooks and discuss the importance of details and accuracy.

Once the notebooks have been established, invite a scientist from the community to speak to your class and share his/her

work. If this is not an option for you, you can show students real scientist's notebook pages that have been archived on the internet. A resource for research notebook pages from Linus Pauling can be accessed at:

<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/specialcollections/rnb/>

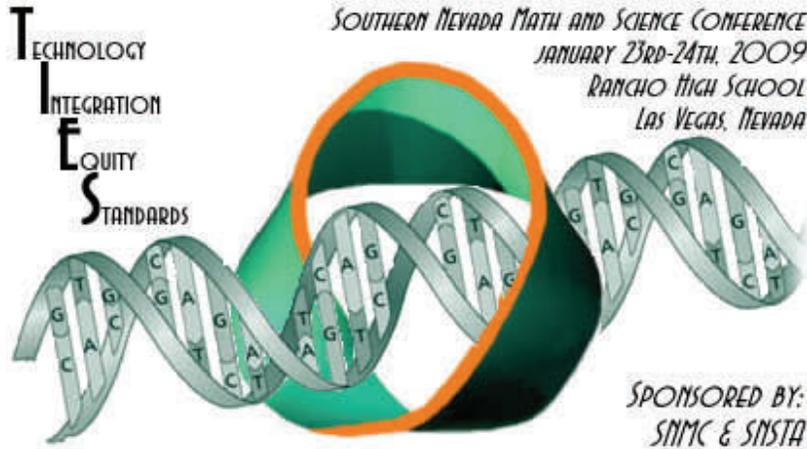
Great gains will be made in your science classroom when implementing science notebooks. This is a place that allows students to share their ideas and investigations with the classroom community. It promotes the development of scientific process skills and higher level thinking. They will be able to express ideas, organize and synthesize data, chart results, write scientifically, and share their results in a manner that makes sense to them.

Using science notebooks encourages students to think critically, share ideas, and investigate..... just like a real scientist!

"The science notebook is a silent partner in ongoing scientific study."

Dr. Jerry Pine, research scientist





During this two-day conference, participants choose from hands-on and demonstration sessions where they learn from experienced educators.

One graduate credit will be available for full attendance and assignment completion.

Science Notebook Resources

- ◆ Fulton, L. & Campbell, B. (2003). *Science Notebooks: Writing about inquiry*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.
- ◆ Hargrove, T.Y., & Nesbit, C. (2003). *Science notebooks: Tools for increasing achievement across the curriculum*. Columbus, OH: ERIC Clearinghouse for Science Mathematics and Environmental Education. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED482720)

Looking for science lessons?

Visit www.rpd.net for an extensive collection of K-5 science lesson plans.

- ⇒ Click on Elementary Science Resources
- ⇒ Click on the science strand
- ⇒ Click on the science topic



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