

The Writer's Notebook as a Tool

As Natalie Goldberg says in her book *Writing Down the Bones*, “Think, too, about your notebook. It is important equipment like hammer and nails to a carpenter.” Consider these big ideas, suggested by Goldberg, as you dive in:

- Keep your hand moving
- Don't cross out (you might delete an inspiration)
- Don't worry about spelling, punctuation, and grammar to the point that it prevents you from composing (that's editing!)
- Lose control!
- Don't get logical!
- Go for the jugular (take a risk)

In order for our notebook to be a tool for us in writing each and every day, the notebook must:

- Come to class every day
- Be used to reflect on lessons, stories, and experiences
- Include strategies that good writers use
- Gather and keep ideas and inspirations
- Be revisited often during writing workshop
- Be maintained according to class guidelines (e.g., has date, page numbers, etc.)
- Be respected and personalized (decorate it with artifacts that represent you)
- Be part of our writing discussions with partners and peers