

Essential Skill: Setting Writing Goals

My Writing Journey

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne. The other day I went to my favorite ice cream shop. I love looking at their big chalkboard menu with all the flavors listed and thinking about which flavor I want. But when I got there, it looked like this—all the writing was gone! It turned out they were just cleaning it, but it got me thinking. What would the world be like if there was no writing?

Imagine this sign at the zoo. It's not clear which way it leads to the elephants, or which way leads to the bathroom? Or if you went to the grocery store for a can of soup and came home with a can of dog food. Or if you opened up a book at the library and didn't see any words.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you think the world would be like without any writing?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said we would be confused and lost all the time. Or maybe you said we would be bored with nothing to read or write. Notice how writing is everywhere!

Think about the menu screen of a video game. It would be pretty difficult to play this game if there weren't any words directing you where to go. Even this sign has some

pretty important writing you should read before trying to sit down. And without writing or words, you wouldn't be able to text your friends. All of this writing in the world exists because of writers.

I remember when I first started writing. I wasn't really sure what kind of writer I wanted to be, or what kind of writing I would like most. Luckily, I got a lot of experience writing at school. The more I wrote, the more I discovered what I liked.

I remember one time I had to come up with an invention and then write about it to describe how it was made and how it worked. It made me feel so creative, and it was really fun.

Another time, I wrote a very short play where there were no speaking parts. But I still had to describe what each character was doing so that the performers knew what to do. It was challenging, but it made me curious about all the different ways to tell a story.

All of these writing experiences made me realize that I really enjoy being creative and curious as a writer.

Think about one of your writing experiences. It might be from an assignment you did at school or something you worked on at home in your free time.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What's a writing experience that you remember, and how did you feel about it?

HOOK 3

I don't know how you answered, but I bet there were lots of different experiences. In fact, you may not even feel the same way about writing as everyone else. A lot of times, our experiences are a reason for how we feel about writing.

I had one friend who had to write a report on spiders. He's always been scared of spiders, so he remembers not liking that writing assignment and not really feeling like a writer. But instead of remembering what he didn't like about it, he chose to focus on how smart and brave he felt doing all of that research.

One part of how we see ourselves as writers is how we feel about writing. Think about how you feel when you are writing. Maybe you feel excited to write. Or maybe you don't really enjoy writing, or maybe you're in between. Rate yourself by holding up a number for how you feel about writing. I'll give you a few seconds to think about it.

No matter how you answered, you are all writers! You don't have to be an adult, or write books, or love writing all the time—there are lots of ways you can be a writer. Maybe you don't like writing now, and that's okay. It's important to try and understand not only how you feel about writing, but why you feel that way. Just like how my friend changed his feelings about his report on spiders. You can do the same if you understand why you feel the way you do.

In today's lesson, you're going to look back, or reflect, on your own writing experiences. Then you'll get to come up with a plan to become an even better writer by setting some writing goals.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Think about one of your first writing memories. Maybe you were in first grade writing your spelling words. Or maybe it was this year, and you were writing a funny story. Think about what you were writing and how it made you feel. Take thirty seconds to think about it.

When you have your idea, take turns sharing with your partner. When you've both had a chance to share, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 4

Now, find the sun next to "My first writing memory." Finish the sentence by filling in your first writing memory and how it made you feel. If you need help, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 5

Now think about your favorite writing memory. Maybe it was a fun project you did in school. Or something you wrote for someone you care about, or something you wrote at home by yourself. Think about what you were writing and how it made you feel. If you don't have a favorite memory, think of a recent one.

Take thirty seconds to think about it.

When you have your idea, take turns sharing with your partner. When you have both had a chance to share, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 6

Find the heart next to "My favorite or recent writing memory."

Finish the sentence by filling in a writing memory and how it made you feel. If you need help, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 7

So far, you've reflected on how writing has made you feel in the past. Now, think about how you want to feel about writing in the future. Imagine reading your writing at the end of the school year and thinking, "Wow! I wrote that." Think about how that would make you feel.

Now find the lightning bolt.

Finish the sentence by filling in how you want to feel as a writer this school year. If you need help, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 8

Now that you've thought about how you want to feel when you write, you can think of some things you can do in writing to help you feel that way. Those things you want to do are called *writing goals*.

Maybe you want to write more about topics that interest you. Or maybe you want to write longer sentences, or maybe you want to use more describing words. All of these goals can be something you work toward every day to feel like this.

Now look back at the emotion you wrote by the lightning bolt. What are goals you can set to help you feel this way? Take thirty seconds to think about it. If you need ideas, you can use your Word Bank.

When you have your two goals, take turns sharing with your partner. When you have both had a chance to share, give us silent thumbs up.

STEP 9

Now find the star. Write your two goals here on the lines under the star. You can start your sentence like this: *My goal is to*, or *I want to*.

WRAP UP

Take a look at all of your writing memories and your goals. Awesome job!

You are on your way to understanding what kind of writer you are now and the kind of writer you want to become. Whether you want to write a storyline for a new video game, or write fun facts on the side of a cereal box, or write the words in a comic book. Your writing memories, feelings, and goals are unique and should be celebrated as you become an even better writer!

Keep reflecting and think about what steps you can start taking to achieve your writing goals.

See you next time, writers.