

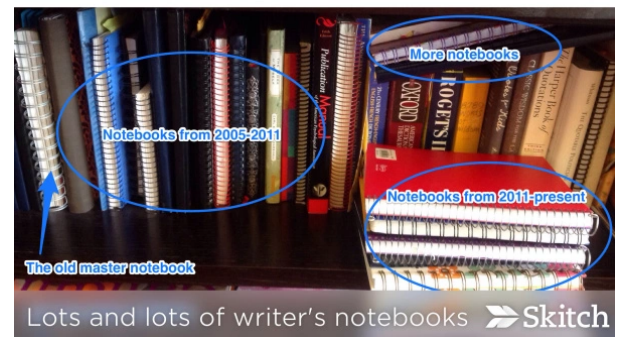
TWO WRITING TEACHERS

A Master Writer's Notebook in Evernote

Wednesday January 15, 2014 by *Stacey Shubitz*

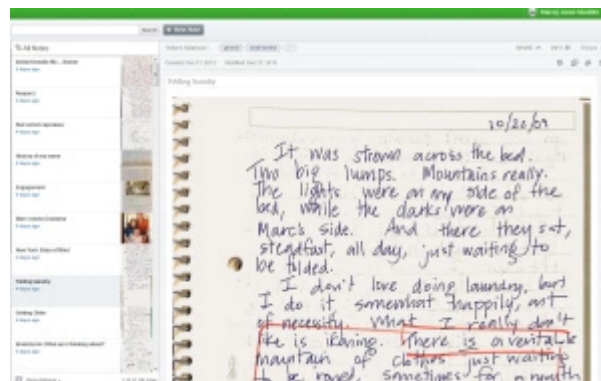
A few years ago I thought I had a brilliant idea. I created a master writer's notebook since my notebook writing, which I shared with students during writing conferences and in minilessons, was spread out in several writer's notebooks. Instead of carrying multiple writer's notebooks with me when I conferred, I thought it would be easier to have a master notebook. However, recopying old entries into one master writer's notebook was tedious. I gave up on my idea when the master notebook broke apart and went back to schlepping a few notebooks around with me whenever I conferred with students.

In late December I looked at the bookshelf in my office that holds many of my writer's notebooks. I noticed I've amassed **a lot** of writer's notebooks in the past decade (see photo). The "master writer's notebook" sat among the notebooks filled with writing. I looked at it and sighed. A few minutes later I thought about creating a digital master writer's notebook.



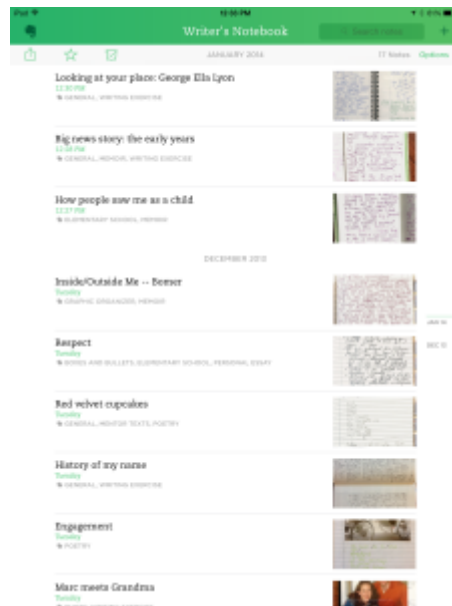
I opened Evernote and created a new notebook called "writer's notebook." Then, I read through my old notebooks in search of my favorite entries. I photographed writer's notebook entries using the document camera feature in Evernote. Next, I applied tags to each entry based on the audience I could share it with (i.e., elementary school, middle school, adult audience, or general). I also added tags like "boxes and bullets," "graphic organizer," "literary essay," "poetry," and "writing exercise." This gives me a variety of ways to search for entries when I need them.

Here's a peek at how it looks on my Evernote Desktop:



Click on the image to enlarge.

And this is how the "writer's notebook" notebook looks on my iPad:



Click on the image to enlarge.

It'll take me awhile to go through all of my notebooks to put everything I need into Evernote. But for now, I have a master writer's notebook in Evernote, which means I can access my notebook writing on my iPhone, on my iPad, and from my computer. Now I can bring my iPad into a classroom and confer with student writers. I don't have to worry about bringing several writer's notebooks with me since everything is in one place. All I have to do is open the "writer's notebook" notebook in Evernote or do a keyword search for a given entry. Then I can show a student a writer's notebook entry during a writing conference. I can also e-mail it to someone if the student needs or wants to use it as a mentor.

Finally, I want to give a hat tip to Mary Bellavance, Susan Dee, Deb Frazier, Katie Keier, Cathy Mere, and Karen Terlecky. These ladies led an incredible round table session at NCTE, which had me thinking about digital tools for the past two months. Thank you for the inspiration!

Category : technology, writer's notebook

Tags : evernote

30 thoughts on "A Master Writer's Notebook in Evernote"

Elisa Waingort on Saturday January 25, 2014 at 8:53 am said:
What a great idea, Stacey. Thanks for sharing.

Vicki on Monday January 20, 2014 at 10:00 am said:
Thank you SO much! What a great way to tie together notebook writing and technology, making it easier to teach. Need to get myself organized!

Wanda Brown on Saturday January 18, 2014 at 5:47 am said:

Stacy,

Evernote has become both a professional and a personal resource of great value to me. My kid's portfolios, parent notes, recipes, lists, presentations...everything is in EN. I have not put together writer's notebook pieces, however. Many of those are in big books I keep and share with my kids. Thank you for the idea. This would be a great place to store photos of mentor text excerpts to share as well.

Kristi Lonheim on Thursday January 16, 2014 at 3:53 am said:

One more great way to use Evernote. Thanks!

readingtothecore on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 9:31 pm said:

This is a great resource, Stacey! Thank you for sharing.

gardenlearning on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 8:07 pm said:

Perfect! I was just looking at my shelf of notebooks and wondering how I could gather what is important and get rid of the rest since my notebooks hold schedules, thoughts and writing. I have not worked very much with Evernote but will go exploring this weekend and see what I can learn. Thanks for the timely post! Love the idea!

4321teach on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:50 pm said:

What a great idea! Evernote is my go to program for conferring, so logically I could integrate this idea into my lessons.

Betsy Hubbard on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:22 pm said:

This is so awesome! It is motivating to see what you have done so far and how quickly you can have what you need at your fingertips.

Tara Smith on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:22 pm said:

What a fabulous idea, Stacey! I gave up on Evernote...but I definitely see that I need to revisit it!

Cathy on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:21 pm said:

Stacey,

Love this! I started writer's notebooks with my first graders this week. I forgot my notebook at school, but was able to pull it up on my blog and share a few entries I had written about. The lesson went off perfectly. This idea of collecting them in a notebook is perfectly timed. I think I will also begin collecting entries from students that may be helpful in the future. Thanks for the push.

Cathy

lizcmckenna on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 5:08 pm said:

What a great post! I use Evernote, too, but definitely not nearly enough! I'm relaunching the Writer's Notebook this week, so this will be a great tool! Thanks again!

cdr58tech on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 4:49 pm said:

Great idea! You could also search tags while conferring to bring up other great examples of a specific strategy. Imagine if students also had access to Evernote and learned how to tag effectively – they could efficiently search and find inspiration – from their own writing!

Stacey Shubitz on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 5:22 pm said:

Now that would be a great use of Evernote too!

Dana Murphy on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 12:59 pm said:

Well, this is smart! I'm caught in a paper vs. paperless limbo right now, and this post has me thinking maybe Evernote will help me make the final leap.

Stacey Shubitz on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 1:05 pm said:

I'm on the verge of digitizing my life with Evernote. My office is a heap of papers, which is not conducive to writing well. Therefore, I'm thinking of photographing and scanning everything so I can store it on a cloud instead of around my body!

LMK how it goes for you, Dana.

Jane on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 11:46 am said:

Great post! Thanks for sharing. Are you aware that Evernote will also search handwritten notes? This may just be an Evernote Pro option and, if so, well worth the cost. For example, I just wrote myself a note and included the words "depth of knowledge". I did not use fantastic cursive, just a quick note on the back of an envelope. Then in Evernote, I chose to create a note, used the app's camera to take a photo of my scribble. I did this using Evernote on my iPad. I then went to Evernote on my laptop and searched notes for "depth of knowledge" and there it was, my hastily scribbled note with "dok" highlighted! How powerful is that?!

Stacey Shubitz on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 12:32 pm said:

I've been using the premium version since the summertime. Searching for handwritten notes is such a huge help (esp because I use Penultimate and the Post It feature on Evernote).

Cathy on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:45 pm said:

Evernote will search your handwriting in the post-it feature?

Cathy

Lorraine Tom on Sunday January 19, 2014 at 9:11 pm said:

What stylus do you use with Penultimate? I've been trying to confer with Evernote and I'm still really slow with the process, but I think it's a great tool and I want to keep trying.

Stacey Shubitz on Sunday January 19, 2014 at 9:23 pm said:

I've been using a ho-hum stylus that I don't know the name of. I've been through two so far and I haven't been impressed. I just ordered a Jot Script stylus in the Evernote store yesterday. I'm hoping that will give me more precision when I write.

April Brown on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 9:35 am said:

As I was reading and thinking what a great idea. Couldn't you have students do the same thing? They could take a photo graph of their best work and store it in their notebook, it could then be shared with parents if the student wanted. In grade two, getting them to rewrite the piece of writing can be very time consuming. Thank you.

Stacey Shubitz on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 12:33 pm said:

Absolutely!

Linda Baie on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 9:20 am said:

I loved that session, too, & need to get more into my Evernote files. I like how you're doing this, Stacey, with the photos & the tags. I thought I was going to have to transfer all the words instead of photographing. Thanks for the inspiration and follow up!

Deb Day on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 8:01 am said:
This is a great idea! I'm going to have to get working on this

rosecappelli on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:17 am said:
I am always looking for new ways to use Evernote. Thanks for this great idea! I didn't realize Evernote had a camera feature. I'll have to look for that!

Deeanna Gunderson on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:15 am said:
I love this idea. I was just thinking about doing something similar with my chart collection.

oteslibrary on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 7:15 am said:
Brilliant! I have been struggling with how to reconcile online and print notetaking – never thought about taking photos of the print. DUH! I've been using Evernote for a variety of purposes, so this should be an easy new application. Sometimes I feel like using print with a nicely flowing pen, even though my handwriting is drastically declining in legibility; other times I want to use my computer with it's comfy ergonomic keyboard so i can read what I wrote!
May I link to this post from my blog?

Stacey Shubitz on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 1:05 pm said:
Thanks for asking! You may share the link.

franmcveigh on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 6:48 am said:
Stacey,
What a timely post. I was just checking- "Is this in my writing notebook?" before an entire week of writing next week. This will also push me to continue using Evernote as an organizing tool. Thanks so much for including the pictures and possible tags!

Tammy Mulligan and Clare Landrigan on Wednesday January 15, 2014 at 5:54 am said:
What a great idea! – We love Evernote for organizing everything else but didn't think about it as a tool for consolidating notebooks. It would also be easy to add photos/artifacts that you want in your writer's notebook as inspiration for writing.

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