

Launching (Lesson 7)

Using Writing Notebooks: Left to Right / Return Sweep

Minilesson Teaching Point: Students will learn how to write on their paper. They will learn that writers write from left to right and about the “return sweep.”

NOTE: You may need to revisit this lesson for the return sweep as students advance in their writing.

Standard(s):

Materials:

- Large version of writing paper for teacher modeling.
- Simple story idea to share with students (or adapt the idea below to fit your needs).
- Journals or paper that has two lines to practice the return sweep.

Connection:

“Writers, today we are going to learn how to write on our papers. When we write, we want to be able to read our writing and we want other people to be able to read our writing, too. In order for us to read our writing, we have to organize our words and sentences on our paper. I know how to read books, because the authors have all written their writing in the same way. Today, we will practice writing the way authors do so that others can read and understand our words.”

Teach (modeling):

Do a quick think aloud about what to write. *“I want to write about my dog today. She loves to go to the dog park and play fetch. She gets lots of exercise and runs really fast. I’m making a movie in my mind of one time when I threw the ball and she ran so fast that she slid right past the ball.”*

Model the steps for writing in notebooks or on paper (writing your name and drawing a picture). *“First, I’m going to draw my idea.”* Quickly sketch your story.

“Now, I want to write my idea. When writers write, they always begin writing their idea on the left side of the paper. I know which side is on the left by using my hands to help me. When I hold my hands straight out in front of me with my thumbs sticking out. My left hand makes a capital ‘L.’ When I look at my paper, the left side is over here.” Model holding up your hands and moving them toward the writing paper to show the left side of the page.

“I will begin writing my words here.” Write the words while speaking them aloud to the students. Point out to the children that you starts at the left and work toward the right. Continue writing until you reach the right side. Think aloud problem solving the return sweep. *“Writers, I have come to the other edge of my paper and I still have more to write. Watch as I do a return sweep to the left again and finish my writing.”*

Possible story to write:

