

## Using Notebooks as a Writer

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### Ideas from Mr. Renwick

- About the writing process
  - Revision is about making changes to the writing and about subtraction. My writing gets smaller, clearer, and better when I reread my writing and revise.
  - When I write in a certain genre, I read a lot of books and articles within that genre. It helps me get a sense of the way authors write for that type of audience and purpose.
    - I still read fiction! I have one nonfiction, one fiction going at any one time.
  - I write what I am curious about and interested in. Through my writing and research I learn a lot about the topic. If the project is not interesting and meaningful, I get bored.
- About using notebooks as a writer
  - Capture ideas with a pocket notebook.
  - Mess around, doodle and try out new writing ideas in any notebook. Bad ideas are how I get to the good ideas.
  - Research and interviews are documented in my notebooks to be a better listener.
  - Collect quotes in the notebooks for later drafts; collect quotes on the cover for epitaphs (quotes that might begin a chapter).
  - Organize bigger projects by chapters and sections, but may not use every page.
  - Outline sections I want to write to help me get the big picture of what I want to say.
    - Reverse outline to clean up a messy draft.
  - Write out first drafts if I am feeling the flow (which I rarely do).
  - Manage deadlines in my notebooks - I have editors to help keep me accountable.
    - Who keeps you accountable with your writing?
  - Manage related projects to the writing - workshops, courses, articles to publicize.
  - Personal tasks go in notebooks too, such as grocery lists, thank yous, gifts.