



Writing in Science



What kind of writing do scientists do?



Judi's list

- Routinized reporting:
 - Lab reports, EIRs, etc.
- Synthesizing and critiquing other people's ideas:
 - Literature reviews, Review articles, Comments & Replies
- Presenting new frameworks for thinking about ideas
 - Research articles
- Working out ideas in writing:
 - Lab or field notebooks, emails
- Summarizing group thinking:
 - Reports from working groups
- Reports for the general public and policy recommendations for lawmakers
- Popular media: books, magazines, blogs, websites

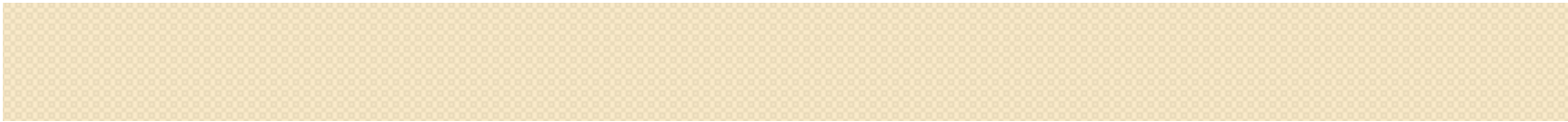


What do we typically have kids
write in science?





Providing students with opportunities for more varied writing

- Writing-to-learn
 - Working out ideas in writing
 - Practicing with ideas
 - Can be embedded in activities
 - Preassessments
 - Quick writes
 - Formative assessments
 - Can be varied in format
 - Interactive science notebooks
 - Handouts with specific prompts
 - Letters to a friendly audience (parent, friend, sibling, study buddy from another grade level)
 - Communication to someone else in class
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Let's try some examples



Now let's try designing your own

- Choose one of our formats:
 - Challenge Statement
 - Odd One Out
 - Agree & Disagree
 - Letter to a friendly audience
- Think about a piece of your curriculum that generates student confusion. Design a write-to-learn exercise that helps sort out that confusion.

Formal writing

- Think beyond the lab report.
- Have kids take a stance
 - Based on a science experience or observation
 - Based on text
- Use the Communication Triangle to vary the Author's role, the Audience, and the Format

Let's try designing one

- You must designate:
 - What is the Author's role? This helps define the area of expertise and the kind of rhetoric to be used.
 - What is the Audience's need? This helps the writer know what kind of information or arguments should be included.
 - What is the Format? This helps define the proper structure and register (tone, word choice, emotional content) of the product.

Here's the list of kinds of science writing

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