



Prepare your students for success

Just released: *Little Spark is a guided journal written by Caroline Siassios, experienced teacher and entrepreneur.*

Why capture your spark?

A great idea starts with a spark. We all have many great ideas and creative thoughts inside of us. But ideas fade and get forgotten. The challenge is to create a habit and a method to prevent that from happening.

Little Spark is a creative tool that enables your students to keep track of their ideas, inspiration, observations and reflections. It is a way for them to organise their thoughts by getting them out of their head and into a place where they can mix together and possibly grow into something more.

New ideas spark when we make connections between things we know and experiences we've had. Documenting these ideas through writing and drawing not only assists us to remember them, it can help to make sense of them. Empower your students to capture their sparks before they fizzle away. They might uncover the beginning of a bigger fire within.

Available online at sparkjournal.com.au

Contact us to discuss how you can incorporate Little Spark into your curriculum

Benefits of Little Spark

Learn how to journal – Clear instructions and information is included to help students get the most out of journaling.

Be inspired – Throughout the journal, students can be inspired and motivated by a collection of quotes from a variety of well-known people.

Know what to write – Little Spark is over 200 pages of carefully structured, guided journaling with more than 120 descriptive, imaginative, reflective and analytical prompts to develop and boost students thinking.

Pause, reflect and ponder – Students look back on what they have written to see how they have evolved and discover things they want to change.

Carry it anywhere – The convenient size and durable construction with a spiral binding and protective front and back cover means your students can carry their journals with them to keep track of thoughts and capture ideas.

Be themselves – Students build authenticity and develop self-awareness by focusing their thinking on what really matters to them.



tips

Teaching through journaling

Journal writing is a great way to understand and support the development of student thinking. Here are some tips to manage journaling in the classroom:

Model journal writing for the class - Students should be aware of what is expected of them in relation to quality, content, and length. Encourage students to extend, defend, debate, elaborate on and question their own ideas. This can be done within an entry or by revisiting a past entry.

Respect your students' privacy - If you're going to read them, inform the students that you're going to do so.

Share - Provide time for students to share content with their peers if they choose. Encourage asking each other questions about their choices, ideas, doodles etc. The process of listening to others discuss their ideas and the chance to look at other content can spark new inspiration for things they can do in their own journals. Use topics from the journal as a starting point for class discussions and activities.

No correcting - Journal writing needs to be a time when spelling, punctuation and grammar don't count. Students need to feel free to express themselves without their ideas and writing being judged or corrected.

Feedback - The aim of introducing journal writing is to produce positive outcomes, so make sure any feedback encourages this.

Set clear expectations and procedures - Clarify how often students are expected to write in their journals. Discuss when, for how long and for what purposes. Be sure to establish a level of respect for each student's journal and make clear that it is a private conversation that can be shared with others if the student wishes.

There are no wrong answers in journaling - Make sure your students feel safe to write freely.

Motivation

- When students don't feel like writing, they could draw their ideas.
- Encourage students to make journaling part of their daily routine. Recommend they allocate a block of time in their day, such as when they wake up or after dinner.
- Suggest they look ahead to their journal prompt for tomorrow so they can brew some ideas before they write.
- Alternatively, they can just write the first thing that comes to mind when they read the prompt.