Making and Using a Writer’s Notebook

Karen P. Peirce, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Agenda

➤ What is a Writer’s Notebook?

➤ Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

➤ Making a Writer’s Notebook
What is a Writer’s Notebook?

“Keeping a notebook is the single best way I know to survive as a writer. It encourages you to pay attention to your world, inside and out. It serves as a container to keep together all the seeds you gather until you plant them. It gives you a quiet place to catch your breath and begin to write.” (Fletcher 1)
Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

Mark Twain
Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

➢ Thomas Edison
Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

➤ Virginia Woolf
Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

- Charles Darwin
Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

➤ Leonardo da Vinci
Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

- J. K. Rowling
Who Uses a Writer’s Notebook?

- Mary Amato

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcPcHYjTG9k)
Making a Writer’s Notebook

➢ Any size and type of notebook will do.
Making a Writer’s Notebook

1) Number all pages in the notebook (just the front of each page).

2) Make a numbered list on the first page (or first few pages) of your notebook that equals the total number of pages in the notebook; this will be your table of contents.
Making a Writer’s Notebook
Con’t

3) Select prompts from the list at the following web page to include in your notebook: (inside.warren-wilson.edu/~creativewriting/Prompts.php)

4) Starting with the page following your table of contents, write each selected prompt on a new page and also next to the corresponding page number in the table of contents.
Making a Writer’s Notebook
Con’t

5) Later you can add tabs for organization, like this:

and decorate your notebook however you’d like.
Works Cited


Edison, Thomas. Things Doing and To Be Done. circa 1888. Thomas A. Edison Papers Project at Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences, Piscataway NJ. The Thomas Edison Papers, edison.rutgers.edu/NamesSearch/SingleDoc.php?DocId=NA021AAF.

