

## Interactive Science Notebooks (ISN)

### **FIGURE 1** Student objectives

After sufficient practice, students who keep science notebooks should be able to do the following:

- Increase their understanding of science concepts based on the standards for each grade level.
- Use writing as a process for discovery.  
Improve their ability to organize ideas and information.
- Recognize the connection between thinking and writing.
- Write more freely, more comfortably, and more often.

ADAPTED FROM "WRITING FOR UNDERSTANDING" IN SCIENCE AND WRITING CONNECTIONS

### **FIGURE 2** Science interactive notebooks

#### **Left side**

The left spiral page demonstrates your understanding of the information from the right side page. You work with the input, and INTERACT with the information in creative, unique, and individual ways. The left side helps focus your attention and guides your learning of the science content and concepts.

#### **What goes on the left side?**

Output goes on the left side!

- Every left side page gets used!
- Always use color and organize information...It helps the brain learn

#### **What could go on the left side?**

- Brainstorming
- Concept maps
- Pictures
- Diagrams
- Flow charts
- Worksheets
- Poems
- Mind maps
- Venn diagrams
- Drawings
- Writing prompts
- Lab and self reflections
- Songs

#### **Right side**

Science interactive notebooks are used to help you learn and remember important scientific concepts. Why do they work? This notebook style uses both the right and left-brain hemispheres to help you sort, categorize, remember, and creatively interact with the new knowledge you are gaining.

#### **What goes on the right side?**

Input goes on the right side!

- Always write the date on each page and label each assignment!

#### **Guidelines:**

- The right side spiral has only odd numbered pages.
- The right spiral page is for writing down information you are given in class (input).
- When the teacher lectures, you take notes on the right side.
- When you take book notes or video notes they ALWAYS go on the right side.
- You may use Cornell Style Notes on the right page.
- Laboratory activities go on the right side. Any other type of INPUT you get in class.

**FIGURE 1** Science interactive notebook rubric

- 6**
- Notebook contents are complete, dated, and labeled
  - Pages are numbered (odd: right-side; even: left-side)
  - Right-side/Left-side topics are correct and contents organized
  - Lecture notes go beyond basic requirements
  - Uses color and effective diagrams
  - Shows impressive, in-depth self-reflections

- 5**
- Notebook contents are complete, dated, and labeled
  - Pages are numbered (odd: right-side; even: left-side)
  - Right-side/Left-side topics are correct and contents organized
  - Includes most of the traits of a "6", but lacks excellence in all areas
  - Most areas meet requirements but don't go beyond
  - Shows in-depth self-reflection

- 4**
- Notebook contents are complete (at least 90%), dated and labeled
  - Pages are numbered (odd: right-side; even: left-side)
  - Right-side/Left-side topics are correct and contents organized
  - Uses color and some diagrams
  - Information shows basic understanding of content topics
  - Some areas meet requirements, but don't go beyond
  - Shows limited but real self-reflection

- 3**
- Notebook contents are complete (at least 80%), dated and labeled
  - Pages are numbered (odd: right-side; even: left-side)
  - Right-side/Left-side topics are somewhat organized
  - Uses minimal color and few diagrams
  - Information shows a limited understanding of content topics
  - Few areas meet all requirements
  - Shows some real self-reflection

- 2**
- Notebook contents are incomplete
  - Some attempt at dating and labeling of entries is made
  - Right-side/Left-side is inconsistent and contents are unorganized
  - Information and concepts show only a superficial understanding of the subject matter and/or show serious inaccuracies
  - Notebook is not neatly written
  - Shows little real self-reflection

- 1**
- Notebook turned in, but too incomplete to score