

Expectations for Writing

- Find topics and purposes for your writing that matter to you, to your life, to who you are, and who you want to become.
- Keep a list of your territories as a writer: topics, purposes, audiences, genres, forms, and techniques.
- Try new topics, purposes, audiences, genres, forms, and techniques.
- Make your own decisions about what is working and what needs more work in pieces of your writing. Be the first responder to your own writing.
- Listen to, ask questions about, and comment on others' writing in ways that help them move the writing forward.
- Create a handbook of writing and reading mini-lessons, recorded chronologically, with a table of contents.
- **Produce at least three to five pages of rough draft each week and bring at least two pieces of writing to completion every five weeks (Rief 1992).**
- Maintain a record of the pieces of writing you finish, and file finished writing chronologically in your permanent folder.
- Sometime during the school year produce a finished piece of writing from each of the following genres:
 - a memoir
 - speech (Own the Throne)
 - 7-10 poems
 - a book review
 - a short story, myth, or legend
 - an opinion or persuasive piece on an issue that matters to you
 - biographical essay
 - an expository report or essay
- Attempt professional publication
- Recognize that readers' eyes and minds need your writing to be conventional in format, spelling, punctuation, and usage. Spell, punctuate, capitalize, etc. correctly as you draft.
- Keep an individualized proofreading list that you check your writing against when you edit and proofread.
- Enter words you don't know how to spell, or aren't certain of, on the personal spelling list you keep in your spelling folder.
- Take care of the materials, resources, and equipment I've provided for you.
- Establish and work toward significant, relevant goals for yourself as a writer each quarter.
- Take a *deliberate stance* (Harwayne 1992) toward writing well: try to make all of your writing literature.
- Work as hard in writing workshop as I do. Re-create happy times from your life, work through sad times, discover what you know about a subject and learn more, convey information and request it, parody, petition, play, explore, argue, apologize, advise, sympathize, imagine, look and look again, express love, show gratitude, and make money!

--adapted from *In the Middle*, Atwell 1998