

Keeping Interactive Notebooks in Science

The left spiral page demonstrates your understanding of the information on the right side page. You work with the input, and INTERACT with the information in creative, unique, and individual ways. The 14 Prompts help focus your attention and guide your learning of the science concepts.



What goes on the Left Side?

Output goes on the Left Side!

- Every left side page gets used! **ALWAYS USE COLOR**... It helps the brain learn and organize information.

- Brainstorming
- Mind mapping
- Concept Maps
- Venn Diagrams
- Pictures
- Drawings
- Diagrams
- Significant Statements
- Writing Prompts
- Commentary
- Flow Charts
- Reflections
- Responses to any of the 14 Blazer Prompts

So these are the 14 Prompts!!

1

What's my study plan to learn this information?

2

What's the best way to remember this topic?

6

Write 4 "What if..." statements about this topic.

10

Use a Venn Diagram to compare & contrast these topics.

3

Write the lyrics for a song on this topic.

7

Write a letter to _____ about this topic.

11

What do I already know about this topic.

4

Make ___ Vocabulary Cartoons from this topic.

8

Create an analogy and visual for this topic.

5

Paraphrase this information into 1 sentence.

9

Write and solve ___ problems using this information.

12

Make a visual illustration explaining this topic.

13

Write a poem on this topic.

14

Write a mnemonic to help you remember this information.

Keeping Interactive Notebooks in Science



Interactive notebooks will be used in this class daily to help you learn and remember important scientific concepts. Why do they work? This notebook 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 start the page with the date and subject title at the top of the page.



- The right page of the spiral notebook has only **odd** numbered pages.
- The right side is for writing down information you are **given in class**.
- When the teacher lectures, you take notes on the right side.
- When you take **book notes** or **video notes** they also go on the right side.
- You may use **Cornell-style** notes on the right page.
- **Vocabulary Words** and their **Definitions**.
- Notes for labs and **lab instructions**, procedures and materials
- Teacher Questions and Sample Problems
- Any other type of **INPUT** you get in class.



Sample Cornell Style Notes

Questions/Key Terms

Notes/Factual Information

1. Why are plants green?	Scientists note that plants are green. Many ideas have been proposed to understand plant color.
2. What is photosynthesis?	Photosynthesis means ‘to put together with light’ meaning that plants use a process to produce food and energy from light.
3. What does transmit mean?	Plants are green because they transmit green light.



Interactive Notebook – Unit Self-Reflection



Reflection directions:

Begin your responses on the last left-hand page of the unit, and continue on the facing right-hand page.

1. Choose 6 items, which represent your best work – 3 from the left side and 3 from the right side. In several REFLECTIVE paragraphs, write specific reasons why you chose the items, why they are your best work, and what these assignments reflect about your skills as a student.

- Skills: organization, analysis, logic, creativity, thoroughness, accuracy of information, ability to put new information together, understanding new concepts, etc.
 - Reasoning that it was “fun” or just that you “liked” it is NOT an adequate reflection.

2. Indicate your overall rating of your notebook based on the 6,5,4,3,2,1 rubric (where 6 is the best). What do you think this notebook deserves on an A-F scale? Include several sentences on WHY you’ve chosen this rating, using specific details.

3. Using sentences and specifics, respond to the following:

- What information did you learn that was new to you?
- Was the notebook easy or difficult for you? Explain.
- Has the notebook helped you organize the material? Explain.
- Has your notebook improved? Explain.



4. What are your goals for improvement in this class? List specific areas in which you feel you need to improve or need help improving. EVERYONE has something they can improve on.
5. What improvements or areas of change would you like to see in the class? Explain.

Interactive Notebook - Parent/Guardian Review

Student: Schedule a time and place to meet with your parent or guardian. Have them review your interactive notebook with them and write some comments.



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your student has been keeping an interactive notebook in science class this term. Please look through their notebook, read their reflections, and respond to the following items. Thank you for your time and support of our class.

1. The work I/we found most interesting was... because...
 2. What does the notebook tell you about your student's learning habits?
 3. Comments, questions, and/or concerns? Please let me know.

Name (Print): _____ Relation to Student _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____