

Possible Writer's Notebook/Sketch Journal entries might include:

- things you notice that pique your curiosity
- close observations: sights, sounds, textures, moods
- snippets of interesting dialogue you overhear
- questions
- lists of things to think about later
- quotes
- generating writing from photographs
- memories
- plot ideas (from news, life, etc.)
- character ideas from interesting people
- setting ideas
- research data (observations, explorations)
- reflections on and off things you see, hear, think about
- word play: play with words you like
- family stories you know
- top ten lists (people, place names, music, etc.)
- conversations you've had
- ideas you care about
- passions (things that make you angry, puzzled, joyful, etc.)
- things kids say
- anything unusual that "disrupts the commonplace"

Never consider your notebook/sketch journal a finished project, but rather a place to collect your thoughts over a range of endless possibilities. Give yourself the freedom and flexibility to take risks and try things out.

And yet —these are places of record, and you will be turning them in to me. Don't use your sketch journal as a diary of your daily life, or confide anything you wouldn't feel comfortable sharing with me.

Last note: PERFECTION IS THE ENEMY. Be sloppy. Be creative. Spelling and handwriting don't matter in the slightest. Only you need to know what anything means. And don't forget to put your name on it somewhere.