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6 Ways to Celebrate Student Writing

This month, Susan Adamson, executive director of the Indiana Partnership for Young Writers, shares a few of her favorite strategies for celebrating student writing at the end of a unit of study.

1. Small Group Read-Aloud with Kisses

Because there's rarely enough time to allow *every* student to read his final publication aloud to the whole class, I like to have students share their work in small groups instead. I especially like small groups that unite students who don't typically "hang out" or work together. To make the celebration extra special, we share handfuls of chocolate kisses.

2. Memoir Museum or Gallery Walk

I love to treat student publications as art, because they *are* valuable pieces of art. For my memoir museum, each student posts her final publication on the wall, and I place a sheet of paper with the title "Wow! I like the way you..." next to each memoir. Students can explore the museum, read the texts and leave accolades for the author on the sheets provided.

3. Author Fair

Professional authors regularly attend fairs. Each author has a table where he displays his publications and is available throughout the day to talk with visitors and patrons, sign books, etc. We do a miniature version of this in the classroom, too, each student creating a display table with her publication. We invite families, school personnel and/or other classrooms to attend the fair, reading the text at each author's station and engaging the writer in conversation about the writing process.

4. Gift it

Some of my most cherished gifts are things my sons wrote in school and presented to me at home. We can encourage students to see writing as a special gift we share with others by *actually* gifting our final publications. Invite students to wrap their texts-complete with bows and ribbons (or stickers and glitter). Then present the gift to someone, especially if that someone is mentioned warmly in the text!

5. Record and podcast it

Last year we discovered that the Learning Curve staff at the IMCPL Central Branch can help students create an audio podcast of their publications. This can be done as a classroom field trip or pursued by individual students during their out-of-school time. The library will even publish the recordings to the Learning Curve blog, so the readings can be accessible via the web to faraway friends and family if desired. You can [contact the Learning Curve](#) for more information (tell them the Indiana Partnership for Young Writers sent you).

6. IPYW publications, of course!

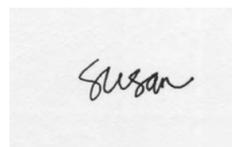
I know I'm biased, but my *most* favorite way to celebrate student writing is by publishing it in the Indiana Partnership for Young Writers' biennial anthology and art exhibit or hearing it read aloud by the author at one of our seasonal public readings.

We'll be accepting submissions for our 2011 anthology this semester. Submission guidelines and entry forms are available for download [here](#).

We'll also host a public reading in April, so look for more information about that in the coming months.

Those are my favorite ways to celebrate student writing. [Write to us](#) and tell us about the innovative ways you celebrate in *your* classroom.

Sincerely,



Susan C. Adamson, Ph.D.
Indiana Partnership for Young Writers