**Supporting Writing at Home**



There are several types of authentic writing experiences that students can engage in at home that will further support and reinforce writing skills that are being taught in class. Some of these practices can be done independently while others may require parent supervision. Any opportunity that students have to write freely will ideally increase not only stamina but an interest in reading as well !

* **Blogging online:** This provides students with an opportunity to form opinions and then write them down for a large audience online. Blogging can be school related, such as a class blog about a book or an assignment. It can also be completely unrelated to school where students express personal opinions or feelings about their own lives or comment on the lives of others.
* **Emailing**: In today’s world, this is often an efficient and popular way to communicate with friends and family. Students have to make decisions as writers with each email they send. They have to decide who their recipient is, which refers to who they are writing to or for, ultimately determining the word choice and writing style that they will use. An email to a teacher or a business will require a different set of writing skills and word choice than an email to a friend or close family member.
* **Write an online review:** Students use different products all the time. Several online companies have forums for writing product reviews for other potential buyers. Whether it’s a book review, a movie review, a video game review, etc. students can practice their persuasive writing skills to convince consumers that a product is worth the price, or perhaps not worth it.
* **Journaling or keeping a diary** : This is a way that some people are able to record various experiences and feelings in their lives. For some people, keeping a journal helps them to get out feelings or ideas that they’ve been keeping bottled up inside. Although the student may not want to share anything written in a journal, the journaling experience will help them increase writing fluency, which is the flow and length of the writing.
* **Writing out a card or a letter:** to a friend, family member, or maybe even to a solider serving in the armed forces is another way to practice writing at home. Much like an email, a student must consider the audience and purpose for writing the letter, and choose the word choice that they will use.
* **Keeping a notebook at home with creative stories:** is also an imaginative way to build literacy skills.