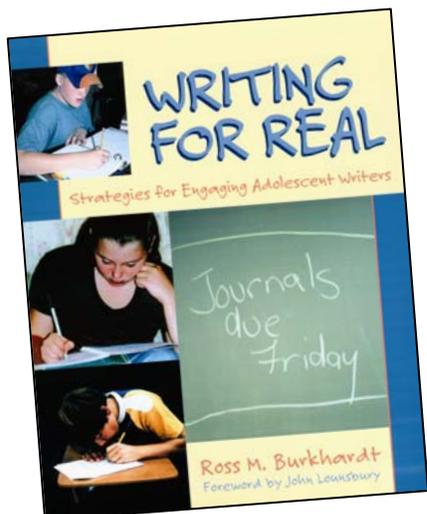


# Writing for Real

*Strategies for Engaging Adolescent Writers*  
by Ross M. Burkhardt



*"Every middle school teacher needs this book."*  
—Teaching K–8, April, 2003

In *Writing for Real*, Ross Burkhardt offers a wealth of writing strategies—collected over his career as a classroom teacher and key figure in middle level education—that give kids real reasons to write. By keeping the strategies grounded in the real world and in students' interests, kids become more engaged than they would from canned exercises. Teacher/student dialogues introduce concepts in an authentic setting. The strategies are also designed to be developmentally appropriate for young adolescents. Throughout the book, examples of student writing represent a range of

developmental levels and a variety of forms, such as free-verse poetry, interior monologues, and personal essays.

Readers can regard this book as a toolbox, using strategies as they need them. The “In a Nutshell” sections at the beginning of chapters provide teachers with a blueprint for trying out these strategies in their own classroom. Or the book can be used as a guide for a complete school year curriculum for teaching writing.

Combining a deep passion for both teaching writing and educating adolescents, *Writing for Real* offers readers a window into a master teacher's classroom. Whether you work with struggling writers or kids who already love to write, these strategies will engage your students in meaningful tasks that teach them the thrill and power of good, effective, purposeful writing.

2003 ► 312 pp/paper ► ISBN: 1-57110-358-9 ► \$22.50



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