

Make Writing: 5 Teaching Strategies That Turn Writer's Workshop into a Maker Space

by Angela Stockman Times 10 Publications, 2016 ISBN 978-0-9861049-3-0

Designed for K-12 teachers who are looking for alternate ways to inspire their students to write.

We've all had that student who would rather do anything than write. School is often a place that recognizes readers and writers, and rejects the strengths of our makers and builders who don't necessarily use words as their tools.

Angela Stockman recognizes this problem and, as is the expected structure of any book in the Hack Learning Series, she presents us with options she has explored in her attempt to engage all students in the process of writing. Her passion for this topic is exceptional, as her experimentation takes place not only within the classroom but in her WNY Young Writer's Studio, located just outside of Buffalo, New York.

Make Writing provides five different solutions to engage our reluctant writers. In a quick overview, we examine individual student strengths and allow them to build or make before writing to create purpose in the Make Writing Hack. The Remake Your Space Hack asks teachers to look at their walls, boards and materials in a different way. What if there was student ownership?

What materials do students need to play with and reorganize their words, topics and ideas? Teaching Them to Tinker shows how you can provide students with ownership over various aspects of ideas, organization or voice. Just like we don't all teach the same way, students need time and experimentation to develop their own writing process. The Keep It Real Hack gives excellent ideas to provide an authentic purpose and audience for student writing, while Hack Your Curriculum provides different ways we can manipulate the curriculum, so it suits our needs and those of our maker students.

Changing an embedded system isn't easy, and for every hack, she provides quick lessons so you can dip your toe into the pool, a blueprint to fully implement a program if you are so inspired, and rationales to overcome the pushback that may occur when trying something new. Angela Stockman also shares stories of real life successes from classrooms to provide us with various visions of success.

If you need support, have questions or want to share the work your writers complete, Angela Stockman is always on hand. You can follow her on Twitter at @AngelaStockman, explore her makewriting.com blog or join her through #HackLearning chats. The articles and images she shares from those she inspired and her inspiring work will continue your journey beyond this book.