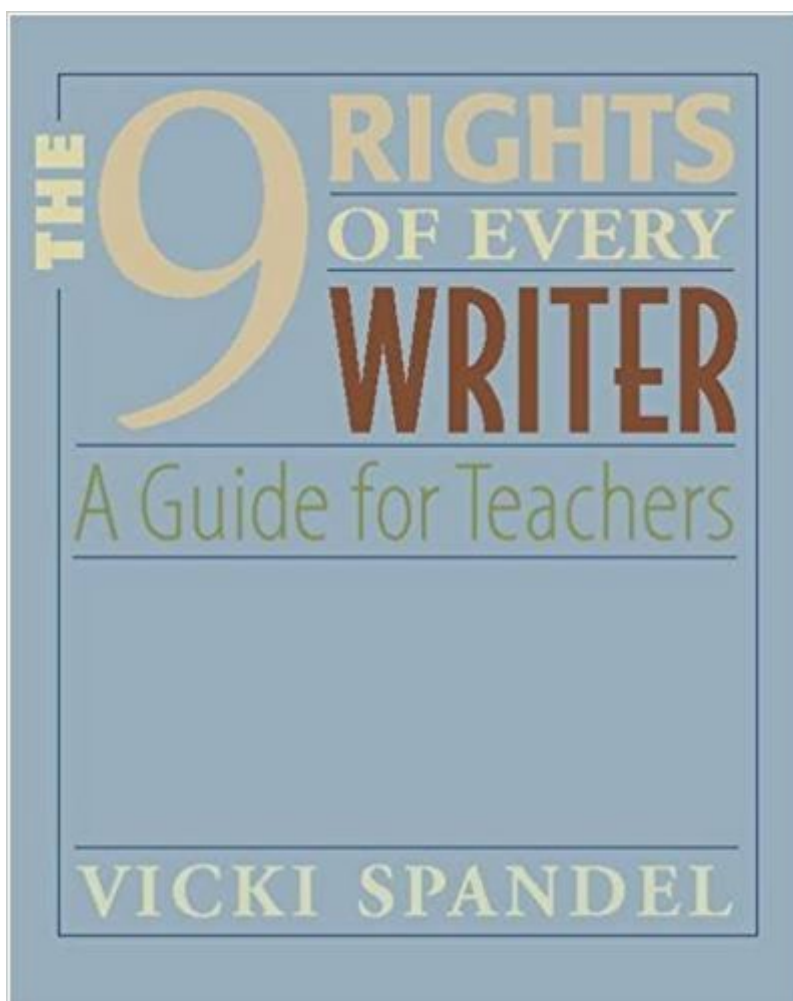


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The 9 Rights Of Every Writer: A Guide For Teachers



Synopsis

Writing instruction stands at a crossroads. Efforts to define and then assess the key qualities of writing have helped pinpoint what outcomes matter most and how to measure them, yet they threaten to become an end in themselves. Meanwhile, high-quality instruction seeks to create a safe environment that applauds risk taking by supporting students through strategies that are not readily measured. In this landmark book, Vicki Spandel takes on the immeasurable, opening an exciting discussion about the conditions writers need to achieve their full potential and offering practical applications for any writing classroom. In *The 9 Rights of Every Writer* Spandel invites nine published authors into a discussion of what makes writing work. Well-known novelists, researchers, science writers, and teacher-writers join this dynamic conversation, and together they draw vital conclusions about teaching strategies that both lead to growth in craft and allow good teaching to flourish. Join Spandel and friends in discovering the personal and instructional importance of: reflecting finding personally important topics going off topic personalizing the writing process writing badly to unearth and clarify meaning observing other writers at work assessing constructively - and well experiencing structural freedom unearthing the power of each writer's voice. As you will discover, *The 9 Rights of Every Writer* weaves the philosophical into the practical, offering powerful, ready-to-use lessons that jumpstart the progress of the writers in your classroom and help them reach writing standards. Harness your passion for writing instruction, let go of rigid practices, and balance the needs of maturing writers with today's classroom realities. Read *The 9 Rights of Every Writer*, learn to trust your teaching instincts, and concentrate on what matters most: creating an instructional setting where writers can achieve success that soars beyond what can be measured.

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Customer Reviews

Vicki Spandel has spent her professional life working with students and teachers of writing - as a classroom instructor, online writing coach, journalist, editor, technical writer, and curriculum developer. She is the author of multiple books on writing, including *Creating Writers*, *Creating Young Writers*, and *The 9 Rights of Every Writer*. Visit Vicki online at <http://sixtraitgurus.wordpress.com> to see writing lessons based on contemporary literature.

As a future educator, I am still in the process of building my repertoire of writing strategies that I can use with my students. Vicki Spandel's *The 9 Rights of Every Writer* has been an exceptionally valuable resource, providing me with greater understanding regarding the struggles that students encounter when writing, and how teachers can scaffold their students to help them grow as writers. In the classroom, writing is usually taught in a very formulaic manner, with the expectation that students must meet the mark for every prompt and every genre with their first attempt. However, Spandel urges us to develop a more realistic expectation for our students, understanding that they practice writing in order to learn how to write. Spandel advises teachers with how to help students become engaged and invested in what they can express through writing, and how to create a classroom environment that encourages students to take risks with the new skills that we are teaching them. Spandel presents novel ideas regarding how teachers should approach writing instruction in their classrooms, like letting students have the right to write badly, but the author convinces readers through the inclusion of her own experiences and research throughout each chapter. With this book, teachers will gain insights regarding ways to support students in the writing process so that each student can find their voice, and have the skills and courage necessary to use that voice in our classroom and beyond.

What do you know about writing? Perhaps, your response would be that it is a straightforward process with no room to deviate or "if you were one of the lucky ones" you may say a freeing, continuous process. If you view the writing process as a prescriptive, one size fits all approach, the book *9 Rights of Every Writer* will shed some light on the flexible, individualized nature of the writing process. In this book by Vicki Spandel, teachers are introduced to the 9 basic

rights of every writer. The 9 rights outlined in the book take what many consider non-traditional elements of writing and construe them as fundamental elements to successful writing. For each right discussed in the book, Spandel does a nice job at laying out practical suggestions that teachers can implement into their classroom. Some of these insights include encouraging students to know that failure is okay because it is the first attempt in learning, there is no way to cheat in writing, and that teachers should model writing as means to push students out of their comfort zone and match the discomfort students may experience. With this straightforward and easy-to-understand book, you will find yourself ready to engage in the writing process both as a writer and as a teacher of writing. After reading this book, there is no doubt that you will feel a newfound sense of energy, passion, and thrill about writing.

The 9 Rights of Every Writer was a required reading in my education program, so when I ordered it I wasn't expecting much more than an average textbook. However, I was pleasantly surprised by a book that was not only easy-to-read, but also offered an insightful look at writing in the classroom. I'd recommend "The 9 Rights of Every Writer" to any teacher who plans to do writing instruction in their classroom. The author gives a lot of advice on the topic, from letting students choose their own topic, to providing them with specific feedback. While these suggestions are simple, they are things that many teachers forget to- or don't think to- implement. As someone who likes to write for fun, I also thought the book had some good insights on the process. The part that really sold me on it was the fifth chapter, The Right To Write Badly. Nobody writes perfectly their first time, and some pieces simply won't be good. So letting students choose the pieces to include in their portfolios that really reflect who they are as writers, and how they've improved, is brilliant. It gives them a chance to take risks, and sometimes fail, without their grades suffering. Overall, I'd highly recommend this book to any educator.

The 9 Rights of Every Writer was captivating and informational to me as a senior in an education program. This book is not like a textbook because it is written in a narrative format, which makes it easier to read. The points that the author makes are not repetitive information of material I have read in other textbooks. Most textbooks for teachers focus on the teaching of writing, this book helps remind teachers of the whole writing process. The author focuses on and encourages teaching to students that writing badly is okay and the need for students to develop writing skills by learning from their mistakes. Students should enjoy the process of writing and practice often to develop and grow, and this book helps illustrate to teachers how to achieve this with their

students. After reading this book I began to rethink how I would teach writing in my future classroom, as more teachers focus on the content and quality than the writing process itself. This book is a great read for future teachers and current teachers alike.

I took a course on teaching writing this summer, and rather than your standard dry textbook, our professor had us buy this one. Now understand that this was a course for teachers already teaching, and this book stopped us in our tracks. It refutes everything you've ever learned about writing. One of the "rights" listed was the right to write badly. Another was the right to get off topic. The incredible thing about this book is, it backs up those unconventional thoughts and offers enough proof to convince even the most resistant minds. Even if you're not a teacher, and you like to dabble in writing, this book is extraordinary. My fiance actually read it after I did and loved it.

Great resource of English or Language Arts teacher to provide instructional thoughts regarding writing.

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