

On the next two pages, you will find two free Writer's Notebook Bingo cards from the set of ten cards my wife and I created for use with our own students. Dena and I both have writer's notebook programs in our classrooms, and these Bingo cards prove to be invaluable for us as we assist any and all students who have trouble finding personal ideas to write about during the time we allot in class for that type of writing.

Our ten Bingo Cards each come with a "center-square" lesson that I designed personally. These are whole-class lessons that either establish writer's workshop tools, or they teach an interesting format for writing that can be replicated with different content. With this complimentary sample, I have activated the center-square lesson for September; if you purchase the set of cards, you will have access to nine like-lessons. Each center-square lesson results in EVERY student having a special writer's notebook page; when that happens in my classroom, I find time to give students a bit of extra time to add some TLC to these pages, and they end up creating a notebook page they're proud to show off. My own students proudly show off their notebooks any chance they have. Check out their work at any of my [Pinterest Boards](#), and you can see why they're proud.

Dena and I use these Bingo Cards alongside two other writer's notebook tools we're proud to feature at our website: our [Sacred Writing Time PowerPoint Slides](#) and our [Writer's Workshop Choice Menus](#). At our [Products Page](#), we purposely offer a 20% discount to new customers who want to bundle these three items because they were designed to work well together. They can be used together, but each of three notebook tools can be used in isolation too.

Our website (<http://corbettharrison.com>) is rich with resources for any writing teacher. As you look over this particular free sample and decide whether it would inspire your student writers or not, we ask you to honor all the teachers from your past who've inspired you. If you end up sharing this sample with others, we ask that you honor our copyright statement at the bottom of the page. These cards and the lessons attached to them are our intellectual property; Dena and I would both cite you if we shared one of your best ideas with others, and we simply ask that the same happens with our free samples, like the attached Bingo cards.

--Respectfully

Corbett & Dena Harrison

August's Bingo Card – Writer's Notebook Challenges

Instructions: After responding to any of the ideas on this page with a decorated ½-page or full-page addition to your writer's notebook, color in the completed box with a yellow highlighter. When you create any "five-in-a-row" Bingos, a "Four Corners," or a complete "Blackout" of the whole card, come and show your teacher to receive a special sticker for your work!

Create a 3-panel comic strip showing a student who wanted summer break to never end.	Make a list of seven flavors of ice cream you'd like to see invented this year.	Explain it well! A pet with the suddenly-new ability to speak wants to understand poetry.	Describe a bad piece of poetry from Yoda or Shakespeare's point-of-view. Use voice.	In an interesting way, share the story of how someone obtained an interesting nickname.
Attach a picture taken this past summer to a notebook page. Write about it with details!	Launch a list or a creative description that captures your idea of a "perfect picnic."	<i>Justify it!</i> Cite detailed reasons why summer vacation should be increased by one week.	<i>Personify a Concrete Noun!</i> Choose a breakfast cereal and turn it into a "person."	<i>What do wind chimes think about?</i> Answer this question creatively in your notebook.
Fake apology! Think of something bad you've done in the last week, and write an apology that sounds convincing.	Illustrate and label the parts of a machine you'd invent to prevent your parents from waking you up early.	August's Teacher-Guided Lesson "Presenting Me" When you purchase the set of cards, this lesson becomes activated.	<i>Worst or best?</i> Put one of these adjectives in front of the word <i>driver</i> and write about what comes to mind.	<i>Weird e-mail correspondence!</i> If a soda pop could e-mail its rival flavor/biggest competition, what would it say?
<i>"I was not surprised!"</i> Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it!	List 5-10 interesting things you could do today with a year's supply of jelly beans.	<i>Unusual Nightmares Prompt!</i> Describe and illustrate a bad dream a <i>overly-popular student</i> has.	Describe the underside of your new desk from a unique point of view—like your shoes.	Write 3 unusual, true facts you know about a topic. Write them as a riddle and share them.
Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: <i>Writer's Words</i>	Start a page where you can record favorite puns. Write 2 or 3 down. Record more on this page as the year progresses.	Make a list of advice for someone who is entering your last year's teacher's class.	Create a half- or full-page tribute to a pet—past or present. Use words and pictures!	<i>Living the Dream!</i> If money were not an issue, what would the <i>dream binder look like?</i>

Remember, you don't have to use the ideas on this Bingo card; these are simply suggestions if you find yourself needing an idea on a writer's notebook day in class. By the end of the year, I actually expect you to be discovering your own writing ideas for your notebook most of the time!

September's Bingo Card – Writer's Notebook Challenges

Instructions: After responding to any of the ideas on this page with a decorated ½-page or full-page addition to your writer's notebook, color in the completed box with a yellow highlighter. When you create any "five-in-a-row" Bingos, a "Four Corners," or a complete "Blackout" of the whole card, come and show your teacher to receive a special sticker for your work!

Create a half- or full-page tribute to your favorite food. Use words and pictures!	<i>"Convince Me!" Prompt</i> Think of a school rule you don't like. Write a persuasive argument.	<i>Unusual Nightmares Prompt!</i> Describe and illustrate a bad dream that any <i>invertebrate</i> may have.	Attach a new image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page. Write about it!	<i>What two numbers feud the most?</i> Answer this question creatively in your notebook.
Create a three-panel comic strip that shows a student who doesn't know how to study.	<i>What does a cloud think about?</i> Answer this question creatively in your notebook.	Make a list of good advice for a (real or imaginary) younger brother or sister.	Launch a list or a creative description that captures your idea of a "perfect day."	You're on a deserted island. You're allowed three books and three songs. Which ones?
<i>Personify an Abstract Noun!</i> Choose a day of the week and turn it into a "person."	Celebrate one of your favorite words by turning it into an acrostic poem.	September's Teacher-Guided Lesson <u>ABC's of Things You Might Write This Year</u>	Describe a room in your home from a unique point of view—like an insect's.	Look at your <i>ABC's of Things You Might Write This Year</i> list. Begin one in your notebook!
Create a three-column (nouns, adjs., verbs) word bank on this topic: <i>School Words</i>	Turn a current event into a "recipe" by listing "ingredients" and explaining how to "mix" those ingredients.	Create an advertisement to sell one of your favorite articles of clothing.	<i>"I was totally terrified!"</i> Write a short narrative where this is your first sentence. Illustrate it!	Think of a family expression or inside joke and explain it using details and illustrations.
Make a list of six writing topics you think your fellow classmates would like to write to.	Write about a true or fictional embarrassing moment. Provide an illustration!	Start a page where you can record your favorite clean jokes. Write 2 or 3 down. Record more on this page as the year progresses.	<i>Weird e-mail correspondence!</i> If a pet could e-mail its owner, what would the e-mail say? Write it!	<i>Worst or best?</i> Put one of these two adjectives in front of the word <i>friend</i> and write about what comes to mind.

Remember, you don't have to use the ideas on this Bingo card; these are simply suggestions if you find yourself needing an idea on a writer's notebook day in class. By the end of the year, I actually expect you to be discovering your own writing ideas for your notebook most of the time!