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Notebook remarks for students

Teaching is an art. It demands a lot of expertise and patience while checking notebooks. Errors are integral parts of learning process. Do not create error threatening environment; at the same time sensitize your learners gradually to write accurately and fluently. "In order to achieve an effective error correction method, it is very important for teachers to have a clear understanding of the nature of errors. As Corder (1967, cited in Cook, 1995: 22)" Notebooks: reflection of a student's personality Generally when we take a student's notebook for correction, student's personality reflects in the notebook. A wise student's different subject notebooks appear in a good condition. He maintains a standard format. We find each and every minute detail on the notebook i.e. properly covered notebooks with primary information, properly maintained index, title of different lessons, complete class work and home work, neat and clean handwriting, less spelling mistakes, and quality contents. We can judge student's personality partially if not completely by going through his notebooks. Teacher's prime job Teacher's prime job is to ensure quality teaching in the classroom.

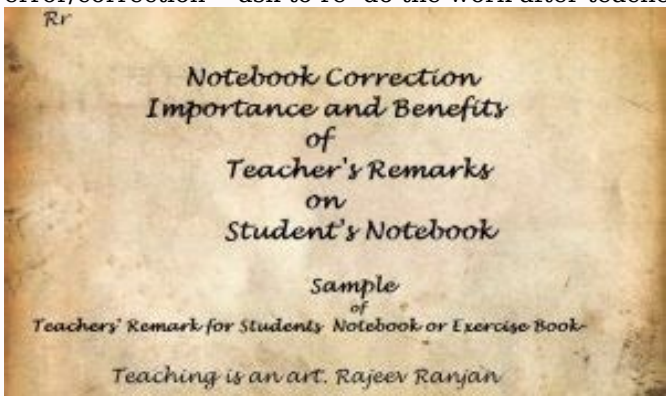
"Teaching is an art", Rajeev Ranjan

Sample of Teacher's Remark for Student's Notebook/Exercise book

<p>Wise teacher "praises the work, 'not the individual' while giving remarks". Teacher's task is to find out not only mistakes but to provide adequate support to make student a better learner.</p>
<p>Sample of Teacher's Remark on notebooks</p>
<p>For good diagrams</p>
<p>Well done. You have drawn a good diagram.</p>
<p>Please draw your diagram with pencil. You can do it.</p>
<p>Please write the level on proper place. It will appear good.</p>
<p>Look at the book diagram. You can draw it in a better way.</p>
<p>For unlabelled diagram</p>
<p>Please write the label on proper place.</p>
<p>You can draw a good diagram. Try once.</p>
<p>Draw your diagram properly.</p>
<p>For improvement in handwriting</p>
<p>You can improve your handwriting. Try to write properly.</p>
<p>Do not leave space between two letters. Practice it, you can write in a better way.</p>
<p>You can write in a better way. Please try it.</p>
<p>Do not write more than 4/5 words in a line. You hand writing will be good.</p>
<p>Please try to write neat and clean. I know you can do it.</p>
<p>Well Done. Try to write letter in cursive. You can do it.</p>

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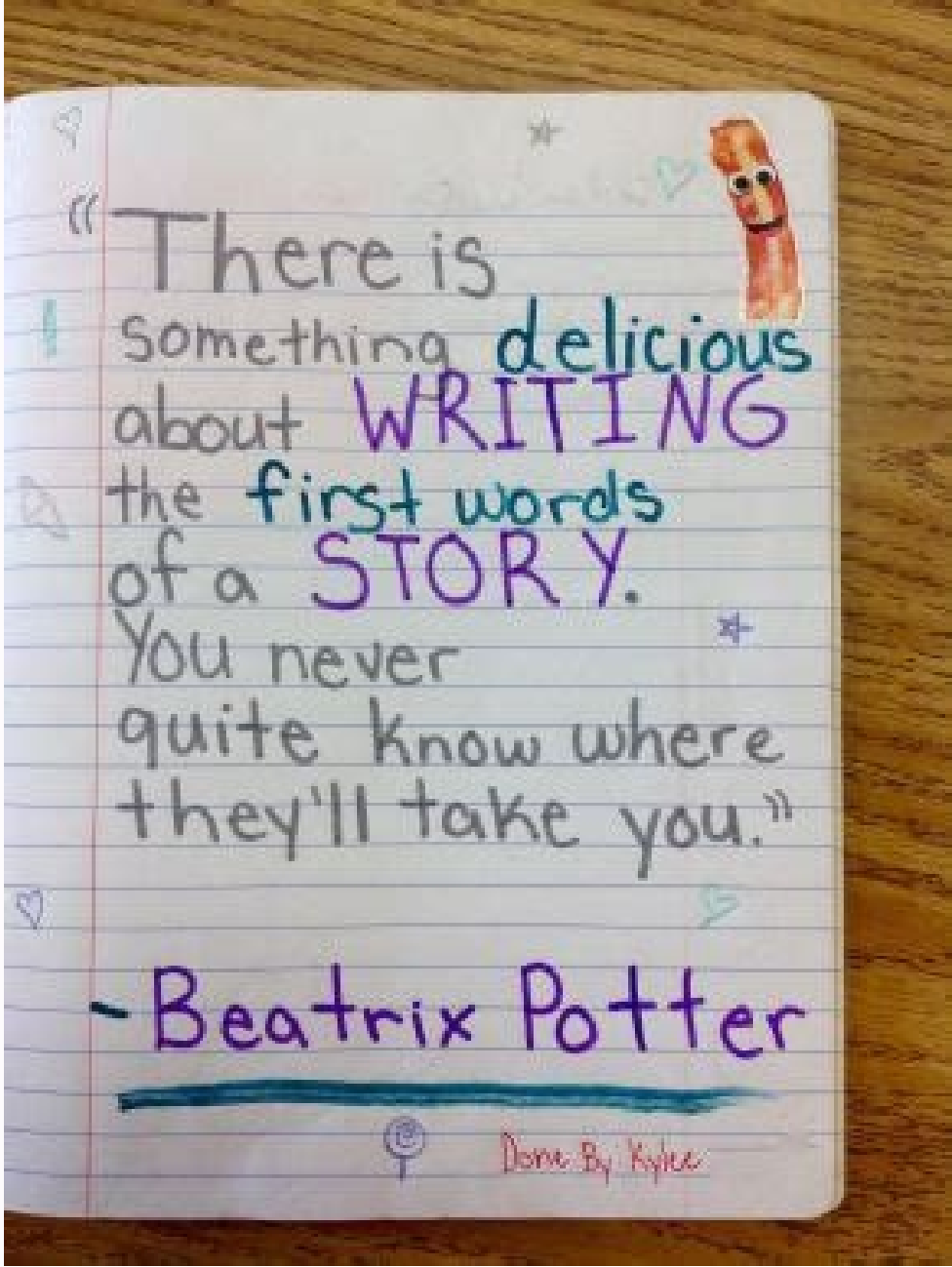
Student's notebook is one the best means to observe effect of our teaching. To write keys points, spelling, key terms and question answer in a notebook is to ensure an effective way of understanding the concept. It is an evidence of learning because student revises his learning time to time for fulfilling different academic purposes. Big Challenge for a teacher Completing a class work and homework are big challenge for academically weak students. Writing works involve a lot of seating and patience. Teacher develops right attitude for maintaining notebooks properly among students from day 1st. Generally teacher faces a big challenge from academically weak students, since these students show least interest in study; they do not complete their notebook on time. Good teacher adopts different techniques for ensuring that students not only complete the notebook on time but also submit it for checking. Classroom strategies for checking notebooks Self correction / Peer correction: - Give students a chance, and time, to correct themselves. Students can also correct notebooks of one another. Peer correction often helps to create a positive class atmosphere as students realize teacher is not the only source of error correction and they can learn a lot from one another. Correction must be done by concerned teacher Wise teacher ensures timely correction of notebooks. Generally we are accountable of student's learning. Smart teachers correct students' notebook by developing their own check. A good teacher ensures proper notebook completion from each one in the class. Pending work will be checked by teacher taking over (left teacher) Generally it is observed that a concerned subject teacher have left the school job in between the academic session. So, it is our prime duty to check left over notebooks by previous teacher. Ensure answer must be relevant to the question/ don't leave space for ambiguous/meaningless answer Wise teacher ensures that the students have written quality answer. We develop habit of writing meaningful, contextual and relevant answer. Major error/correction –ask to re-do the work after teacher's check Teacher ensures that student has re-written the wrong spelling and meaningless answer once again to avoid confusion before the examination.



Spelling errors to be written correctly Teacher instills a good habit among his students from the beginning to re-write miss-spell word. He encourages his students to avoid bad habit of overwriting because it shows student's inability. Underline the incorrect and tick or a double placed under the error A wise teacher usually sensitizes his students for different mistakes on the notebook. He underlines the incorrect answer and tick or marks a double line under the error. Good teachers do not underline all the mistakes at a time. It may be disheartening and discouraging moment for a student. They may feel bad and form a negative attitude towards learning and towards doing hard work. Nurture the individual nature of committing mistakes and evaluates the causes behind present situation. It will take time but improvement will be there. Indicate the type of errors; Missing word, incorrect construction, ambiguous answer Generally a teacher indicates different types of error mentioned in the table with relevant symbols to avoid confusion SymbolMeaningSPSpelling ErrorTenseVerb+Word MissingPunctuationUA new sentence is unnecessary, connect your wordsWFWord Formation English/Hindi-Minute observation of Spelling and capitalization/punctuation and form/grammar/diction/sentence-structureNotebook system of theme correcting ErrorCorrectionHe tried to write something but he did not know what to write. He was confused about the subject matter. He was floundering around. He knows exactly where he must apply his best effort. (Stith Thomson, Jastor) Notebooks Correction techniques varies in different concerned subject Quality notebook correction depends on concerned teachers' expertise and skill. Mathematics teacher adopts a different method to correct students' notebook i.e. formulas, application of formulas, different process, theorem etc has been written precisely on the notebooks. Concerned Science and Social Science teacher guides his students to write different topics neatly and cleanly to avoid confusion. Teacher encourages following things to do:- Geometrical Work/Map Work/Drawing/Diagrams:- Neatly drawn diagrams , Clear and legible labeling , Simple , plain and fully informative diagrams , Use a sharp pencil for geometrical work , map work and diagrams Write encouraging remarks/be particular about the specific comment Teacher's positive remarks on the notebook effectively make a great appeal and sense in the student's mind. Teacher makes his learners aware of their mistakes and encourage them to improve themselves. When a learner writes regularly follow up as a reminder. When a learner fails to regular follow up, student thinks that my teacher still remembers my mistakes. Suggestive comments are given to the students. Encourage students to write neat handwriting and use appropriate colors and means to improve writing habit/questions/spelling/grammatical correction/handwritingKindergarten and Primary Teachers are encouraged to give stickers, stars, and smiley faces as reward for students.Handwriting should be improved in due course of time/provide help to your studentGive emphasis on neatness of work and maintenance of the notebooksPraise the quality of the work not the individualPlease indicate what is good about the work. Good/Fair/Excellent/ meaningful question/handwriting/good content Help long absentee in completing pending work Teachers' main concern is to ensure learning. We should help students, who were absent from the class for various reason. Incomplete work must be rechecked after completion (even if a student is absent for 1-2-3 days, or student is weak/not interested to write) teacher must ensure completion of notebook and checking of the notebook, otherwise it will be counted as teacher's fault /Permit students of long absence to photocopy notes (after discussion with the HODS/Let submission after deadline is to be checked with written reminder Respecting an individual's dignity is equally respecting our own dignity. We are teacher. We are motivator and facilitator. We facilitate learning in the classroom. We ensure quality education in our surrounding. A good teacher creates learner friendly environment and helps students to learn by themselves. We are not here to teach but to help students to learn. We are not here to discourage verbal and written comment for a student. Respecting an individual's dignity is equally respecting our own dignity. They may not complete their notebooks timely, may have filthy handwriting, and may commit several spelling mistakes but at the utmost inner core, he wants to change his present abilities. He is searching a right human being and we can be the right person for molding him into an integrated human being. We remind students' mistakes and we do follow up for expected correction but we will not put a stamp on a student's personality that he cannot improve. I firmly believe that teacher consistent efforts with a human heart can bring massive change in a student's life. Let! Be the first to become a game changer! Rajeev Ranjan Indian Educationist

Web Reference:- When it comes to preparing and leaving the right comments on the report cards, as a teacher it is one of the challenging tasks (it's actually 2nd, after handling weak and struggling students). But, the next-level challenge is to maintain the balance between straightforward feedback and thoughtful comments especially when it's regarding poor academic performance. After all, you have to inform the progress of the student to their parents in an efficient way that encourages parents and students, rather than frustrating and demotivating them. You want to let them know how much they need to improve, but you also don't want to come across as harsh or too critical. Here are some tips to help you find the constructive approach to follow regarding how to write effective and encouraging report cards. When writing a remark - or comment on the report card... While giving a remark to average students - make sure you give it in the most polite yet effective way. Don't sound rude or use an insulting tone since it can discourage them or shatter their confidence. Your remark on weak and average students should leave a positive impression that can motivate them to work better and improve rather than building pressure on them. Here are a few tips to consider while sharing remarks for weak and average students:

1. Be sure to mention something that is positive as well. Whenever you are providing the parents with updates on their child's progress, you should also make sure the update does not look like pure criticism. Each child has a unique nature and personal interest in a specific subject. Make sure you highlight the positive aspects of students that make them unique in the class.
2. There is always room for improvement. At the end of every semester, you should always leave a note saying that you're looking forward to seeing more growth in your students. Always remember to tell them that you'll continue to support them throughout the year.
3. Always be honest and inspiring to your student's progress. Report cards don't always have to be all positive or negative. Sometimes it is better to share the truth than to hide it. Of course, you feel that negative comments will put some amount of pressure on the parents more than students, but it's all worth it as long as you want to improve your student's progress.



Even if you see no good things about the weak student of your class, share something like hope and as an encouragement to the student as well. 4. Be sure to include the parents. Agree that a report card is all about the student's academic and behavior performance, but you better not limit it to that as well. It is important to let their parents know about any strengths and weaknesses you identify. Highlight such uniqueness of their children that amaze you and what are the other scope of it. Share some suggestions to parents, include them in the growth of their kids. You should discuss how you can work together to discover a kid's interests, so that he/she will be able to succeed.

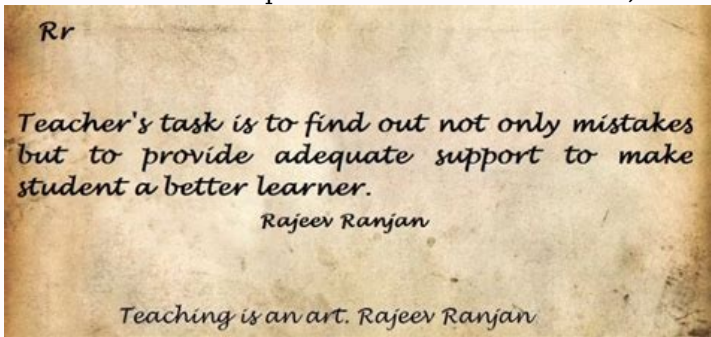
5. Proofread your report before you send it. No doubt, preparing report cards for each student is a tiresome task. And you may not have enough time to review that as well. But, proofreading and double-checking the reports is much more important than avoiding any grammatical errors. It further allows you to check whether your approach is constructive enough or not.

6. You can make adjustments to the reports that overall ensure parents that their children are under the care of a supportive and caring teacher. Now let's take a look at some best comments that you can get ideas regarding what to write in the report cards. Sharing some 'Positive' and 'Needs Improvement' comment sections for better ideas.

Positive comments: You point ahead and understand! Read next: How to Train Your Brain to Have Better Study Habits comments for weak students on report cards He/she asks questions when needed. Always ready for more challenges that is something I like. He/she is the most about the hardworking students in our class. Such a trustworthy and caring boy/girl in the class. I love that he takes time to think before he speaks. He is quite active in extracurricular activities. Works very well when in the team or with his best friends. So far, her progress is consistent. Enthusiast to learn and try something new. Completes every assignment and task on time. I like your better ideas to learn new things. That's a great skill you got. Your performance this time is truly impressive. Do you mind sharing how many hours you study at home everyday? Very hardworking and supportive students in our class. We're lucky to have her. So much surprised by his transformations. Seems like he's changed. Great! This school is so proud to have smart kids like him.



He's a gem among us. Needs improvement: I think he has more interest in... (Add Relevant subject) Need to work by himself and to become more independent. Hope to see improvement in communication. He's having a hard time maintaining focus in the lecture. Active participation in the class is expected. Not even interacting with classmates. Needs to know how to be organized. Always looks tired and sleepy in class. Easily gets upset when advising something. Just needs some patience to wait for lunch-time. Well, this time you didn't get expected results. But, we can surely work on that part. You are not weak, you just need more practice in this subject. His scores indeed improve than the last test. Now, we can expect more improvement. She is smart and learns things faster.



She needs more practice in writing. Read next: Distance Learning Tips for Online Students Meaningful report card comments for weak student His performance in most subjects is improving. Becoming quite regular and attentive in the class. I was very impressed with his communication skills. Exceptionally good at maths, so I hope he does the same in science, as well. Helping everyone in the class.

Truly appreciate his dedication to the study. Other students learn a lot from her. Sets an example of intelligence and problem-solving skills. Stays respectful to the teachers, staff, and peers. Very obedient and faithful student of our class. He mostly comes late for class. But, very focused, without any question. He/she is good at understanding, he/she needs to pay proper attention in lectures. I'm truly surprised by his performance. Seems like he's being serious with his study. He can do his best in the exam, but his lack of concentration stops him. Very active in extracurricular activities, hope also be that active in subjects, too. Such a well-behaved and obedient student, she is. Such a brilliant

student in the class, because he's learning things faster. Needs improvement: Lack of complete focus and attention on study. Easily get distracted by anything while studying. Having problems with effective reading and pronunciation. Needs to improve on his problem-solving skills and reasoning abilities. Facing some difficulty in understanding basic information. Has poor self-discipline and no concentration on the subject. Brilliant student, but needs to participate actively in school activities and events. Asks too many unnecessary questions and remains confused most of the time.

As far as I know, she never interacts with her classmates and stays alone. Needs to be constantly aware of school rules and classroom guidelines. Definitely, the performance has improved but still needs more work. He is a quick learner, I recommend you add some more time for self-study.

The performance is not up to the mark, and yeas need more practice next time. Not asking questions, even if seems confused sometimes. She often faces a struggle to remind the instruction and what is taught in the class. He has been giving an average performance so far. There's a requirement for extra practice. Read next: Pros and Cons of Living On-Campus vs Off-Campus

General comments for weak & average students

Very brilliant and clever student of the class. Such a pleasure to have great students like her in our class. Is a sincere and dedicated student who always helps others. Leads a team very well, and quite a great manager for group activities. Having great potential and getting his tasks finished on time. Is positive, confident, and very supportive to others. Completes every assigned work on time, with a great focus. He's practicing a lot at home, I think. Impressive performance so far. Such a great student that others might have a lot to learn from. Seems like he's born with leadership skills, very active, and managed. Spends time thinking and choosing the right words to respond. Learns things a lot faster and remembers them for a longer period. Very confident and speaks very well in front of the whole class. Have an interest in learning something new and be present while teaching. Successfully passing the training phase, now it's time to level up. Keep hustling you will achieve it soon. He's improving and now paying more attention to classes. Needs improvement: Needs to be open and more interactive with the other students. Requires more concern on the study, and gets defocus quite often. Working great in the group just needs to be more independent. Should pay attention to studies and what others are saying to her. Easily gets offended when advising or suggesting something.

Too shy enough to answer it even though knowing everything right. Needs more practice in completing the given tasks on time. Requires to take more responsibility and understand the school norms. We need to work on her handwriting. Needs to be reminded how to behave with her classmates. Struggles to stay focused during the science class, need more practice to take interest in this subject area. Lack of confidence and remain fearful even with the other classmates. Retention ability is too weak. Hope to give more practice tasks at home. I plan to spend more time on students who have the same struggles. We will inform you about the extra training session and useful materials. Need to work more on his handwriting. Seems like he's preparing to become a doctor. You are not failing, you are trying and that is the most important step towards success. Read next: Top Tips for Teaching Remotely

Final thoughts: Report cards are meant to provide parents with feedback about their child's progress. But that also helps teachers and parents to update their training approach as well. All children are unique and have their own way of learning. By comparing them to other students you are more likely to damage their morale than to support them to update. A report card or open conversation, following a mindful approach, is a must for both teachers and student's parents. While advising or commenting on weak & average students' performance, you better check: Are you guiding them to improve or just forcing them to be like others?