
Introduction to the ***Inventive Thinking Toolkit Student Guide***



The Official Inventor's Journal

An inventor needs to be very careful about taking notes and keeping them in a bound book. You will need to prove that you thought up your invention, and you will need to have a “witness” sign your journal each day that you work on your invention and make entries. Anyone who can make a signature next to your name can be your witness.

It is also important to keep this journal and any others you use “bound” together exactly the way they were when new. That means no pages will be taken out or ripped out. In that way, people will be able to see what you thought up and when you came up with your invention. This way someone else won't get the credit for your idea.

Here is your ***BKFK Inventive Thinking Toolkit Student Guide***. Enjoy all the fun activities in this book as you get ready to invent!

Rules for Authentic Journal Keeping

- Use this guide or get a bound notebook. Try not to use a spiral one whose pages tear out.
- Use ink and don't erase or white out anything. If something is wrong, just put a line through it.
- Make notes every day. Write down all the brilliant thoughts you have....one of your ideas may turn into an invention.
- Keep an eye out for problems. Watch when people struggle, and think about how something you could invent could help them!
- Record all your ideas for inventions.
- Make sketches and drawings so your idea can be seen.
- List all parts needed to make your invention. Make notes about where they come from and the cost of these materials.
- Explain how you make your model. You may only be able to draw a picture to explain your invention. Some models are difficult to build.
- Find an “inventor coach” if you can. This person will help you think about different ways to solve the problem. He or she may be able to help you build the invention.
- After you write in the book, sign and date your entry. Make sure you have someone witness your entry and sign next to your name.

This story will show you how important the rules for journal keeping are: *Who invented the telephone?* If you said Alexander Graham Bell, you would be right. He filed a patent application in 1875. But another man named Daniel Drawbaugh said he invented the telephone. Alexander Graham Bell had excellent records, but Daniel Drawbaugh did not have written proof. The Supreme Court awarded the patent for the telephone to Alexander Graham Bell.

By now you should realize that anyone's good invention can become a reality. Something a kid can think of can end up being patented and produced! Following the rules will let you keep the credit for your own invention!

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