

## HOW TO WRITE IN A STUDENT YEARBOOK

By Wendy Soria

A school yearbook, or memory book, is a clever tool that can be used to document an individual's educational legacy. If possible, students should purchase a school yearbook every year. It can become a valued reference for personal memories, school activities, keeping track of good friends after graduation, and for future reunions.

Believe it or not, there are several effective steps that can be taken to make a yearbook a treasured possession. Here are some suggestions that, if followed, will provide a priceless glimpse into the foundation of a student's social and academic past.

### Plan ahead

1. Save money to purchase a yearbook, and buy one early when price is low.
2. Comb your hair, wear something colorful, and go to your picture appointment.
3. Make certain you go when group pictures are taken for extra curricular activities in which you participate.
4. Encourage your friends to have their pictures taken.
5. When the yearbooks arrive, get one as soon as possible.
6. Find your pictures and make sure they are labeled correctly.
7. Check all the pages to see if the book construction is secure. If not, exchange it.
8. If your picture is missing for some reason (it happens), make copies of a favorite photo, place it on the page where it belongs, and give one to all your friends. Write your full name on the back of the picture with full year and grade.
9. If a favorite friend's picture is not included, grab your camera and take their picture. Copy a good one, and staple it in your book where it belongs.
10. If there are limited blank pages on which friends can write, carry some extra blank paper to school, put your full name on it, and pass it around for comments. When pages are filled, staple them together and slip them inside your yearbook.

### Write a personal greeting – including first and last names

1. Always include a personal greeting or a 'Remember when we...?' experience when writing in a friend's yearbook. Avoid using mundane poems or song lyrics, unless they have a specific connection to that person.
2. Sign your *first and last* names after your comments, even if the book belongs to a very good friend. Do not put a nickname, unless it's extra, or in parenthesis.
3. You might want to include the exact date you make the entry.
4. Ask your friends to apply the same rules when they write in your yearbook.
5. If someone signs their first name only, go back and write in their last name.
6. If you have yearbooks or memory books from previous years, take time to add last names while you still remember them. You might note contact information and a personal memory about these people, too.
7. Live a quality life, attend school reunions, and have fun!

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