



Your Interactive Student Notebook

One notebook. Every idea you build this year.

DR. IJEZIE · MATH & SCIENCE



Why We Use an ISN

This notebook is not a folder. It is not a place to store loose paper. It is where your thinking gets built — structured, visible, and yours.

The Two Sides Have Two Jobs

The **right side** is what you receive from instruction. The **left side** is what you do with that information. You need both. Receiving alone is not learning.

The Research Is Clear

Writing about new material, drawing diagrams, and summarizing in your own words physically moves information into long-term memory. Passive note-taking does not. Your ISN is the tool that makes the active side happen — every single class.

What You Need

Gather these five things before the next class. Every item earns its place — here is why each one matters.



Composition Notebook

Sewn binding only — no spiral. Sewn pages cannot tear out. Your work stays intact for the whole year. Spirals leave ragged edges and loose pages disappear.



Coloured Pencils or Markers

Colour is a thinking tool, not decoration. You will use it to code concepts, highlight relationships, and create diagrams that your brain remembers.



Glue Stick

Handouts get glued directly onto your pages — flat, secure, and part of the notebook. Staples rip pages. Tape peels. A glue stick is the right tool.



Pen and Pencil

Pen for permanent notes and entries. Pencil for diagrams, sketches, and anything you want to revise. Keep both in your bag every day.



Scissors

You will trim handouts to fit your pages neatly. A clean cut makes a big difference in how organised your notebook feels — and how easy it is to read.

Step One: Number Every Page

Before you write a single note, number every page. This is the first thing you do with a brand-new notebook — no exceptions.

How to Do It

- Open the notebook flat to the first sheet
- The front of that sheet is **Page 1**
- Flip it over — the back is **Page 2**
- Continue through the entire notebook
- Write the number in the **bottom outer corner** of each page

 Bottom outer corner means: bottom-right on right-hand pages, bottom-left on left-hand pages. Every page gets its own number. Front and back are separate.

Why It Matters

Every entry in your Table of Contents links directly to a page number. If your pages are not numbered, your Table of Contents is useless and finding anything becomes impossible. Numbered pages turn a notebook into a **reference system**.

Do It Now, Not Later

Numbering after the fact is painful. Numbering before anything is written takes about four minutes. There is no good reason to wait.

Pages 1–4: Your Table of Contents

The front and back of your first two sheets — four pages total — are reserved exclusively for the Table of Contents. Do not write class notes here. These pages are your index.

Rule Three Columns on Every TOC Page, Labelled Exactly:

DATE	ASSIGNMENT NAME	PAGE NUMBER
8/25	Do Now: Angle Pairs	6
8/25	Guided Notes: Types of Angles	7
8/27	Vocabulary: Linear Pair & Vertical Angles	8
8/28	Lab: Measuring Angles Activity	10

Log every entry the moment you begin it — not at the end of the week. Your TOC is only useful if it is current.

Page 5: Leave It Blank

Page 5 is your **buffer page**. You do not write on it during normal class operation.

What It Is For

If your Table of Contents on pages 1–4 fills up before the year ends, it continues here. This is a planned overflow — not a mistake. A full Table of Contents is actually a sign that your notebook is doing its job.

What It Is Not For

- Not for doodles
- Not for homework
- Not for extra notes that spill over from page 6

📄 If Page 5 stays blank all year, that is perfectly fine. It is insurance — every well-designed system has a margin.

Pages 1–4

Table of Contents

Page 5

Buffer — leave blank

Page 6 →

All real content begins here

All Real Content Starts on Page 6

Page 6 is where your academic year begins. Every Do Now, every set of guided notes, every lab entry, every diagram — it all starts here and builds forward from this point.

Log It the Moment You Start

The instant you begin writing on a new page, open your Table of Contents and log it: date, assignment name, page number. Do not wait until the end of class. Do not do it "in a minute." Log it now.

Every Entry Has a Date

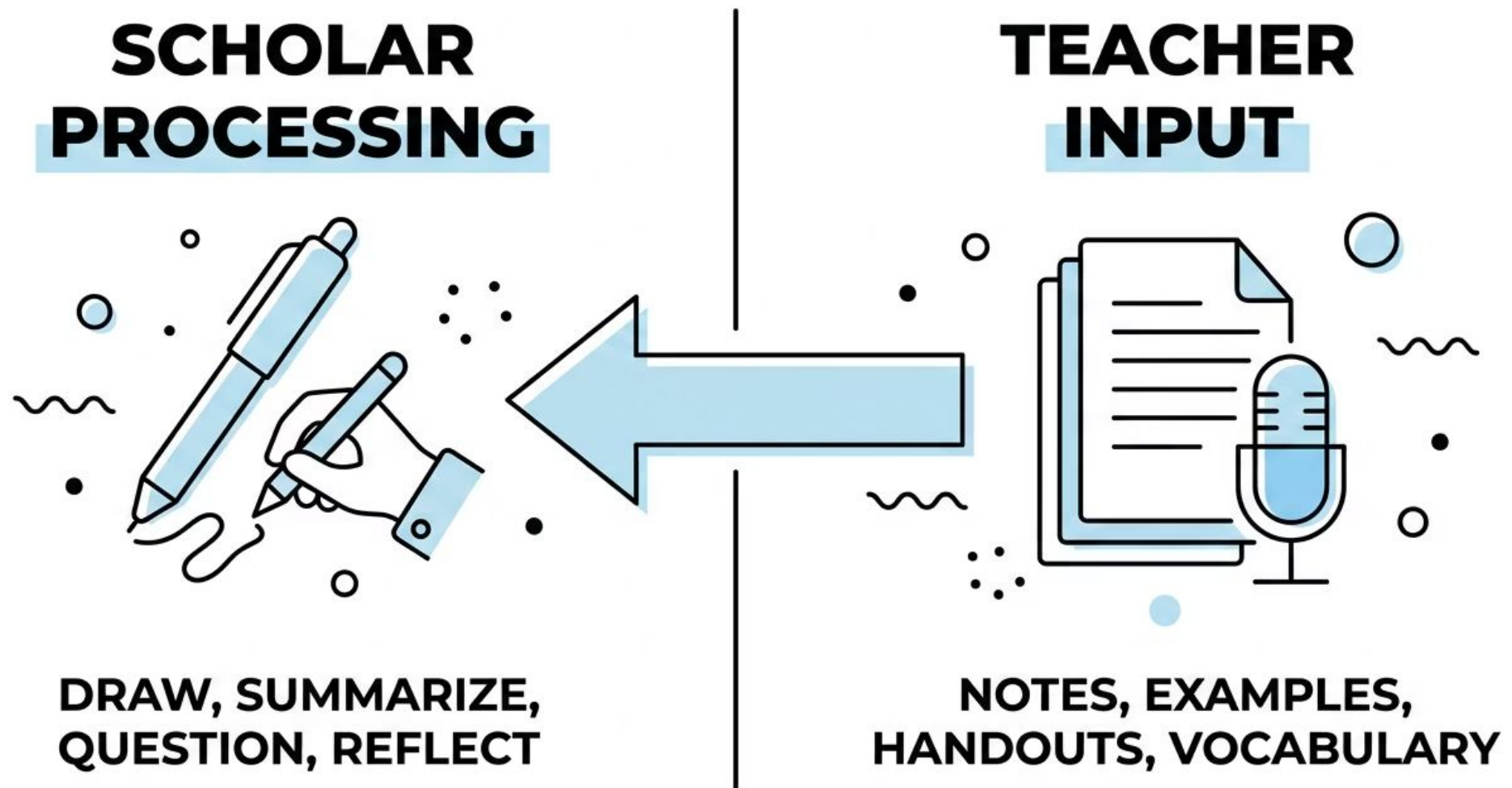
Write the date at the top of every new entry. If you work across two class periods, date each section separately. Dated entries tell the story of your learning over time.

No Skipping Pages

Work continuously. If an activity ends mid-page, the next activity picks up right below it — not on a fresh page. White space in a notebook is wasted thinking space.

The Two-Page System

Every time your notebook lies open flat, you are looking at a two-page spread. These two pages always work as a pair — they cover the same content from two different angles.



The right page is **what came into your brain**. The left page is **what your brain did with it**. You always complete the right side during class, and you complete the left side by the next class meeting.

Right Side — Teacher Input

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

The right page is the record of instruction. Everything that comes from the teacher, the board, or the handout goes here. This is your primary source — keep it organised and complete.



Do Nows

The warm-up problem that opens every class. Write it here as you work it.



Guided Notes & Graphic Organizers

Structured notes provided during direct instruction. Fill them in completely.



Worked Examples

Problems the teacher models step-by-step. Copy every step — do not skip the ones that seem obvious.



Vocabulary & Definitions

Key terms with precise mathematical or scientific definitions, exactly as introduced.



Foldables & Handouts

Trim and glue them in flat. They become permanent parts of the page.



Theorems, Formulas & Anchor Charts

Copy anything written on the board that is not provided on a handout.

Left Side — Scholar Processing

WHAT YOU DO WITH IT

The left page is yours. This is where learning actually happens. It is never a copy of the right side, and it is **never blank**. Pick the strategies that work for the content — you do not have to use all of them every time.

→ Drawings & Diagrams You Create

Sketch the concept from memory or in your own visual style. Label it yourself.

→ Summary in Your Own Words

Explain the main idea as if you are teaching it to someone who missed class.

→ Concept Map or Colour-Coding

Show how ideas connect. Use colour deliberately — one colour per concept, consistently.

→ Your Own Worked Example

Invent a problem with different numbers than the teacher's. Solve it completely.

→ Where I Got Stuck & Questions I Still Have

Name the exact moment or concept that felt unclear. Write the question precisely.

→ Reflection on Your Thinking

What changed in how you understood this topic? What surprised you? One to three sentences is enough.



A left side that only repeats the right side earns no credit. The left side must show your mind working.

A Finished Spread: What It Looks Like

Here is a real example of a complete two-page spread on angle relationships. Use this as your benchmark.

RIGHT PAGE — Teacher Input

Do Now (8/25)

Identify each angle pair:

$\angle 1$ and $\angle 2$ share a ray
and form a straight line.

Answer: Linear Pair.

Guided Notes: Angle Relationships

Vertical angles are congruent. **Linear pairs** are supplementary (sum = 180°). **Complementary** angles sum to 90° . Teacher example: If $\angle A = 65^\circ$, then its supplement = 115° .

LEFT PAGE — Scholar Processing

My Own Diagram

Two intersecting lines drawn and labelled. Vertical angles shaded in matching colours. Arrows showing supplementary pairs adding to 180° .

Summary in My Words

"When two lines cross, the angles across from each other are always equal. The angles next to each other always add to 180° ."

Question I Still Have

"Does this rule still work when more than two lines cross at the same point?"

Notice: the left side is not a copy. It is a response — proof that the scholar engaged with the material.

Notebook Rules

These are not suggestions. They are the operating standards for every scholar in this class.

1 Date Every Entry

Write the date at the top of each new entry, every time. No date means no record of when the work happened.

2 Log in the TOC Immediately

The moment you begin writing on a new page, open to pages 1–4 and log it. Not at the end of class. Now.

3 Glue Handouts In — No Exceptions

Staples tear pages. Loose papers fall out and disappear. Every handout gets trimmed and glued flat onto the page it belongs on.

4 The Notebook Stays in the Classroom

Unless Dr. Ijezie explicitly tells you to take it home, your notebook lives in this room. It is a classroom tool, not a travel item.

5 If You Are Absent — Catch Up Yourself

Get the right-side notes and page numbers from a classmate. Complete the left side on your own. Absences do not excuse blank pages.

How Your Notebook Is Checked

Notebook reviews happen regularly. Here is exactly what Dr. Ijezie looks for — and what does not factor into your grade.

What Is Checked ✓

- **Left side completeness** — Is the scholar processing page substantive and present for every entry?
- **Table of Contents accuracy** — Is every entry logged with the correct date and page number?
- **Dated entries** — Does every page carry the date it was worked on?
- **Handouts glued in** — Are all provided materials secured to the page?

What Is Not Checked ✗

- Neatness of your handwriting
 - How artistic your diagrams are
 - Whether your summary is eloquent
 - The colour of your pen
-

The Standard Is Simple

Did you show up on both sides of the page? Did you track your work?

Did you date it? If yes — your notebook is doing its job.

Completeness and honesty of effort are the only metrics that matter here.

- ❏ A blank left side is the only thing that will cost you marks. Everything else is yours to own.

"If your left side is blank, the learning has not happened yet."

Your notebook is the most honest record of your thinking that exists. Fill it like it matters — because it does.

DR. IJEZIE · MATH & SCIENCE · GRADES 9–12

