

## *Chapter 9*

### **New Teacher Spotlight: Growing as a Writer and a Writing Teacher**

We recommend the following activities to challenge yourself to grow as a writer and a teacher of writing.

- 1) Try out on yourself any technique you plan to introduce to your emergent bilingual students. That way, you will be able to bring to your teaching what you learn. It is easier to teach writing if we view ourselves as writers.
- 2) Develop your expertise gradually. Select one or two techniques to explore in your own writing and to share with your emergent bilingual students rather than trying them all at the same time.
- 3) Particular techniques will work especially well with particular units of study. Keep in mind the unit you are teaching as you select techniques.
- 4) Select mentor texts that are culturally and linguistically sustaining and relevant.
- 5) Always model for the children the technique you are introducing. Provide students with more than one opportunity to try it. Over time, the techniques will become part of the menu students can choose from.
- 6) Most important, remember, multimodal experiences allow emergent bilingual students to view writing as exploration and as a tool for thinking, rather than just producing a product.