Contents

Acknowledgments ix

1. Challenging Assumptions about Learning to Write and Teaching Writing 1
2. Why Family Message Journals? The Intersection of Writing Instruction, Writing to Learn, and Family Involvement 11
3. Family Message Journals in the Classroom 23
4. Writing for a Purpose: Writing as a Tool Across the Curriculum 49
5. Writing for an Audience: The Functions of Children’s Messages 69
6. Families’ Perspectives and Replies 87
7. Family Message Journals Document Growth 112

Works Cited 137

Author 143