



When I entered an Instagram giveaway I never expected for it to change any lives. Having written a little introduction about myself, Osprey Pens learned that I am a high school special education teacher. Kindly, they sent me a beginner set of Dollar fountain pens for my class. For all but one of my students, fountain pens was a completely new experience. Other than hearing me talk about them on occasion, they'd never seen one. One day, I shared the exciting news-- *that each of them would get their very own fountain pen!*

I walked them through how to ink their pens and how to write with one. I gave them some decent paper to write on, and off they went. You can only imagine how many inky fingers and desks there were. They practiced writing their names, doodled, and began writing whatever else was on their minds. For the first time, I saw some students who had never shown any care or consideration for a physical object, take care of their pens. Many of them left them at home for safekeeping. They didn't want their pens to crack, leak, or get misplaced. I expressed my gratitude to Osprey Pens and the student's fear.

As a result, they decided to create the Osprey Scholar. They sent one to each of my students, so they would have a reliable and sturdy everyday writer that they could confidently carry in their backpacks. Upon the grand reveal of their new upgrades, I put together a lesson plan and explained that each of these pens was created with them in mind. They felt honored and shocked at such a generous gesture. So far, none of this might seem like a big deal on the student-end, except it really is. I teach ninth through twelfth grade. While my students have average cognitive ability, many struggle with fine motor control and dysgraphia to the point where their writing was illegible. Due to their embarrassment, many of them have a strong aversion to the intellectual and physical pursuit of writing (and drawing), and avoid it at all cost.

And this is where the magic of fountain pens enters. Suddenly, my students who would normally ask an adult to write something for them or type on a computer, began saying things like, "Where's my fountain pen?!" "My fountain pen would be perfect for this!" "Hey, you know fountain pens are pretty cool." "Oh, which ink do you want to try?!" Students who have actively fought against writing for 10+ years, were excited to get their pen and practice--in class *and* at home. They started to take notes without being asked! My student with the greatest challenges in writing produced an entire paragraph that fit between the ruling of his binder paper and was completely legible!

Imagine the power and freedom of being able to independently write and later read what you've written. How much confidence have my students gained? How much fun are they having? How much more are they learning? How great is it that I can nerd out on fountain pens with my class? There's a lot of magic in teaching but I certainly never expected fountain pens to change my students' experiences and learning.

-Letter from California School Teacher