

TEACHER PROMPTS FOR RESPONSE TO STUDENT WRITING

At times it is helpful for teachers to conference one-on-one with students about their writing. It allows the teacher to focus on particular needs of an individual student. The following prompts are suggestions to help you guide the student.

Questions, which help writers, focus:

1. Why did you choose this topic? What's important about it to you?
2. Is there anything that doesn't seem to fit into your story?

Revision activity:

Rewrite your story without the sentences that don't fit.

Questions which help writers to "show-not tell":

1. Read me the places where you're pleased with your description.
2. What parts did the responders like?
3. What actions would "show" me how the character felt?
4. Which sentence is the "golden sentence"? (Find the best showing sentence in your piece. Trace over the sentence with a yellow marker. You have highlighted your "golden sentence.")

Revision activity:

Turn your telling sentence into showing sentences to make your piece more interesting.

Questions that help writers expand their pieces:

1. In your own words, tell me all about this. What else do you know about the topic?
2. Could you go through your story, reading me a line, then telling me more about it?
3. Are there places where you could use more description?
4. Could you include some dialogue in your story?
5. Is your story finished; did you tell the whole story?

Revision activities:

Find one telling sentence and write it on another sheet of paper. Make it "show-not tell."

Questions that help writers reconsider the sequence:

1. What happened first? Second? Third?
2. Why did you decide to put your story in this order?
3. Can you put this in a different order?
4. Do you have a satisfying ending?

Revision activity:

Cut your story up and put it in another order. How does this change your story?