

Creating a Conferring Toolkit for Writer's Workshop

Mary Lois Staton Conference

February 22, 2012 • Jennifer Thach

Conference Architecture:

Research • Compliment • Teach • Link

- Average of once a week; vary depending on student need
- Last about 5 minutes

Research

Observe or interview the writer to learn more about their intentions.

- qualities of good writing
- habits
- conventions

What's going on?

What are you doing as a writer?

On a weekly basis, make sure you conduct research in different ways:

- Look at student folders
- Observe

Compliment

Find something positive that the writer has done.

Teach

Find what the child is trying to do and teach toward that goal.

- Guided practice
- Demonstration
- Explaining and showing an example
- Inquiry (occasionally)

Link

Name what the writer has done and remind them to do this in the future.

This helps the child transfer what s/he learned into his/her independent writing.

Conferring Toolkit:

Create a portable toolkit that travels with you from student to student to help you **SHOW** not **TELL** during conferences.

- List of possible topics; seed ideas; heart map
- mentor text marked with sticky notes labeling teaching points
- student pieces
- blank booklets
- charts or tools your students will use throughout the unit
- writing folder with demonstration pieces (high, medium, low)
- conference grid
- conferring cheat sheet

Demonstration Pieces

Create a story at different stages and place in page protectors so you can use a dry erase marker to demonstrate and model.

Helpful tools or charts:

- mini pictures of anchor charts
- sound cards
- name charts
- high frequency word list

Examples of how to use the toolkit:

- speech bubbles
- labels
- showing action
- add sentence to picture
- high frequency words
- spacing
- stretching words

Writing Resources

Launching packet

http://busyteacherscafe.com/literacy/writing_workshop.html

Green/Red labels for folders and "What Can I Write About?"

<http://petersons-pad.blogspot.com/search/label/handwriting>

Lots of resources--units with detailed mini lessons

(labeling, editing, WW volunteer poster, speech bubble paper, visual goal materials for students with focus/attention challenges)

<http://www.jmeacham.com/writing.mini.lessons.htm>

Once Upon a Reader's Workshop blog

<http://www.proteacher.net/discussions/blog.php?u=3924>

Ms. Winston

<http://www.mswinston.com/data%20binders.html>

Graphic Organizers and Forms

<http://books.heinemann.com/comprehending/formsResources.html>

<http://books.heinemann.com/comprehending/graphicOrganizers.html>

Writing blog

<http://twowritingteachers.wordpress.com/>

All About Books

<http://dbsenk.wordpress.com/2011/04/25/all-about-books/>

TCRWP

<http://tc.readingandwritingproject.com/resources/classroom-charts/kindergarten>

Fuel the Brain

<http://www.fuelthebrain.com/Printable/?f=writing>