

Establishing the Writer's Workshop

Lesson Series 2

Conferencing Tools

Conference Starters	p. 2
Conference Compliments	p. 3
Conference Notes Template	p. 4

Conference Starters

General Invitations:

How's it going?

What are you writing about?

What part of your piece are you working on right now?

Read me your favorite part?

Read me the part of your piece that you think is the weakest. I'll give you some feedback.

Specific Invitations:

Find your best detail. Read the sentence(s) to me.

What are the 3 best words/verbs you have used in your piece so far?

Read me your beginning/hook?

We've been working on figurative language. Find a part where you used a simile, metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia. (Or read me where you could utilize one of these skills.)

We've been talking about sentence length variety. Let's see if your writing passes the Slinky Test. Read me the first several sentences, and I'll stretch the Slinky to coincide with the number of words in each sentence.

Others:

Photocopy these conversation starters onto cardstock. Carry this list with you while you conference with writers. Look to add other "invitations" at the bottom of the list.

Conference Compliments

Complimenting Ideas:

Very specific details. My favorite is _____.

That's such a creative way of looking at this topic.

You sound like an expert on this topic.

You wrote about such a narrow topic. Love it!

Complimenting Organization:

Your organization makes this easy to follow.

Your beginning makes me want to keep reading.

Your ending wraps everything up very nicely.

Good transitions helped me read this easily.

You wrote a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Complimenting Voice:

I have the same feelings sometimes.

I can hear you here and here.

I can tell you feel strongly about this; this must really matter to you.

You wrote like you mean it. I like that.

Love this moment right here [point it out]!

Complimenting Word Choice:

Many great action verbs.

I can picture this!

My favorite purple word/phrase is _____.

Your words paint a picture.

Complimenting Sentence Fluency:

I had no trouble reading this the first time.

Your sentences begin in different ways. Good!

This piece passes the Slinky Test!

I love the sound of this when I read it aloud.

Complimenting Conventions:

I had to look hard for any mistakes.

Your paragraphs come at just the right places.

Dialogue is hard to punctuate and capitalize.
Good work.

Your audience will appreciate your careful editing as they read.

How did you know to use a comma [or another punctuation mark] here?

This is so close to the correct spelling. Would you like to see how close you came?

Photocopy these conversation starters onto cardstock. Carry this list with you while you conference with writers. Providing compliments not only tells a writer what he did well, but also what he should continue doing in future writings.

Conference Notes:

Week _____ Period _____

↓ Potential Mini-Lessons ↓

Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	IDEAS:
Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	ORGANIZATION:
Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	VOICE:
Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	WORD CHOICE:
Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	SENTENCE FLUENCY:
Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	Name: Working on: Compliment: Taught:	CONVENTIONS: