

Lesson 5: Writing a Draft for a Piece of Writing

Supplies Needed:

- The prewriting graphic organizer you created in the previous lesson
- Some ideas for making changes to the organizer or adding details (or both)
- A blank book or paper to begin writing a draft of your story (Be sure this can be displayed to students as you write.)

Procedure:

- Revisit the graphic organizer from the previous lesson. Tell the students that you have been thinking about this story and that you want to add a few things and possibly make some changes. Model how you can quickly cross out/erase things on the organizer and add new ideas or details that you have decided to add.
- Next get your blank book or paper ready to write. Show the students how you use your graphic organizer to keep you focused as you write your story.
- Be sure to make some spelling, capitalization and punctuation mistakes as you go. If students catch these mistakes (or even if they don't) emphasize that mistakes are fine for now because this is only a first draft, or writing, of the story. It is only meant for themselves or to be read with a teacher or parent. Be sure they understand the term "draft" and know that drafts can have mistakes because they are only our first tries at stories we may want to publish for others to read.
- Send students to their spots for writing and tell them that you would love to see some of them using their graphic organizers to help them begin to write their own first drafts. Conduct informal conferences and be sure to emphasize procedures for writer's workshop.
- Gather students together and have a few students you saw using their graphic organizers to write stories to share their organizers and the beginnings of their drafts. Reiterate what a draft is and the fact that most will contain mistakes – which is completely fine at this point.

Notes: _____
