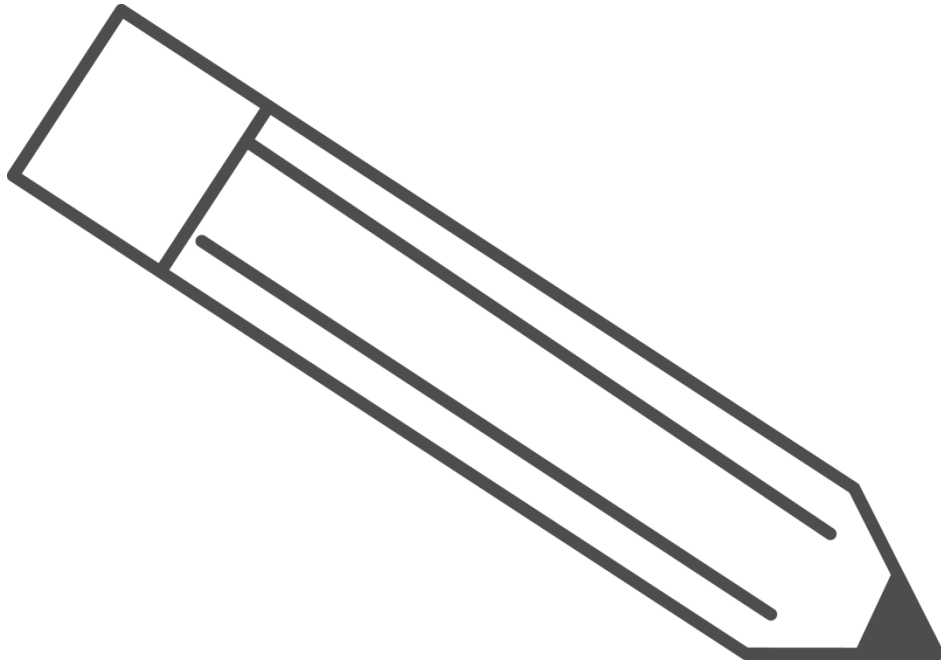


Writing Conference Guide

Making the most of every conference!



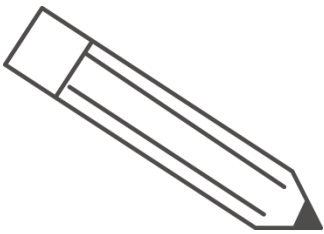
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How's it going?

Start your conference with a quick check. Begin with the question “How’s it going?” to get your students thinking.

Next, have your students read a passage from their writing.

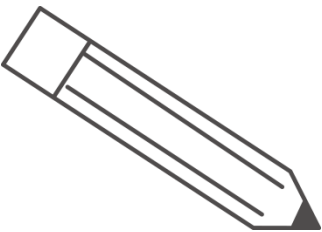
As they read, think about a specific praise and a teaching point.



Questions you may lead with...

These are beginning questions written to help children begin thinking about their writing.

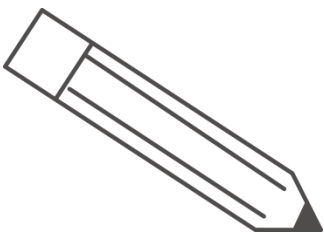
- What do you need help with today?
 - What is your purpose?
 - Who is your audience?
 - What is your topic?



Telling the Whole Story

Writers who are learning often skip important aspects of their story. When a reader looks at it, it is sometimes not clear what the writer is saying. Use these questions to help the writer figure out what is missing.

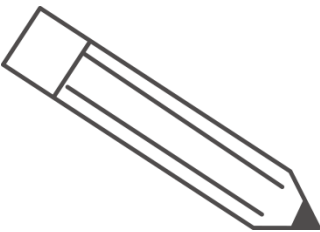
- Could you say more about your ideas?
- Is there something that doesn't fit?
 - What do you mean by...?
 - I don't understand...



Parts of a Story

Just like when they're reading, students should be able to answer W questions about their writing.

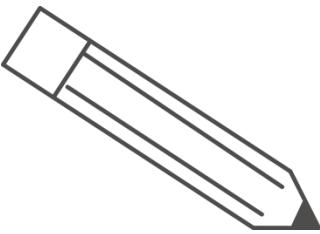
- Who is this story about?
- What is the main idea?
- When did this happen?
- Where is the story taking place?
 - Why did this happen?



Word Choice

Good writers use good words. Students need practice and guidance using words in new ways:

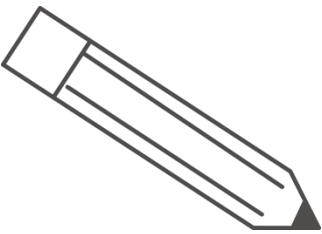
- What is a creative way to say the same thing?
- Replace overused words (big, small, said, etc.)
 - Find exciting adjectives



Voice

Students are using voice when you can hear how they are speaking as you read their writing.

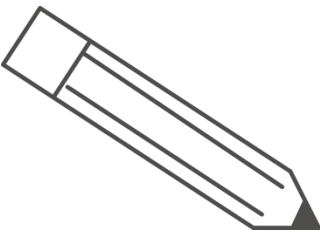
- The voice makes it clear how the child feels
- Sentences are interesting and varied
- Word choice reflects how a child speaks



Conventions

Conventions are an important aspect of writing. However, be careful not to rely too heavily on conventions during your writing conferences!

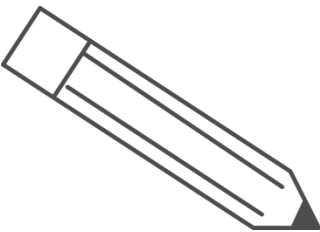
- Work on grammar (subject/ verb agreement & more!)
 - Work on punctuation
- Look at spelling of word wall words
- Strategies for spelling unknown words
- Introduce quotation marks when appropriate



Conventions

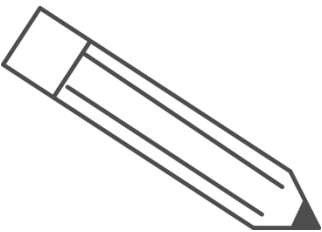
Younger children are not yet ready to use graphic organizers as planners. However, children often need help organizing their thoughts. Here are some ideas:

- Have a child sketch the beginning, middle and end.
- Use post it notes and a few important words to mark what the child has planned for each page



New Ideas

Record additional conference starters here...



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