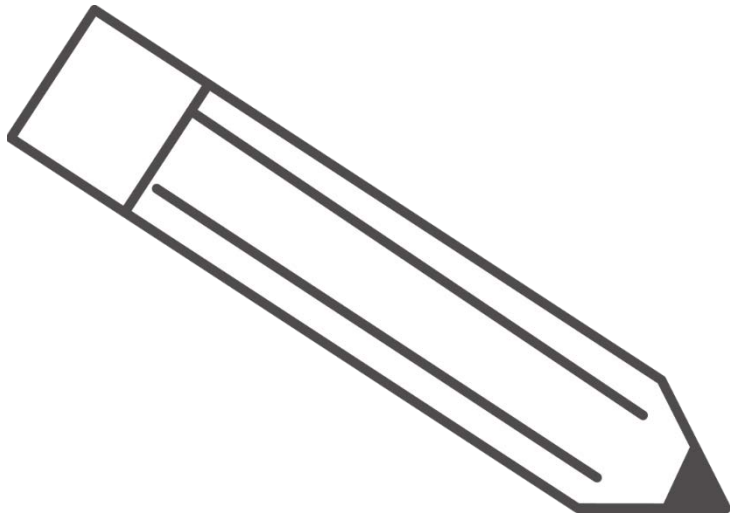


# Writing Conference Guide

Making the most of  
every conference!



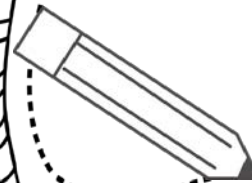
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# How's it going?

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. (Every conference  
should include a praise before the teaching  
point!)



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## Questions you may lead with...

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

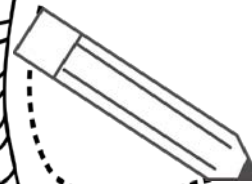
- What do you need help with today?
- What is something new you have tried in your writing?
  - What is your purpose?
  - Who is your audience?
  - What is your topic?

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## 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...
- How could you find out more about your topic?



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# 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?

If students have included these parts, encourage them to expand and add details to help the reader visualize each part better.

# 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
- Use words that help the reader visualize your story

## 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

## Planning

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

## Ideas

Children might need help focusing on a single idea during writing or developing a writing idea.

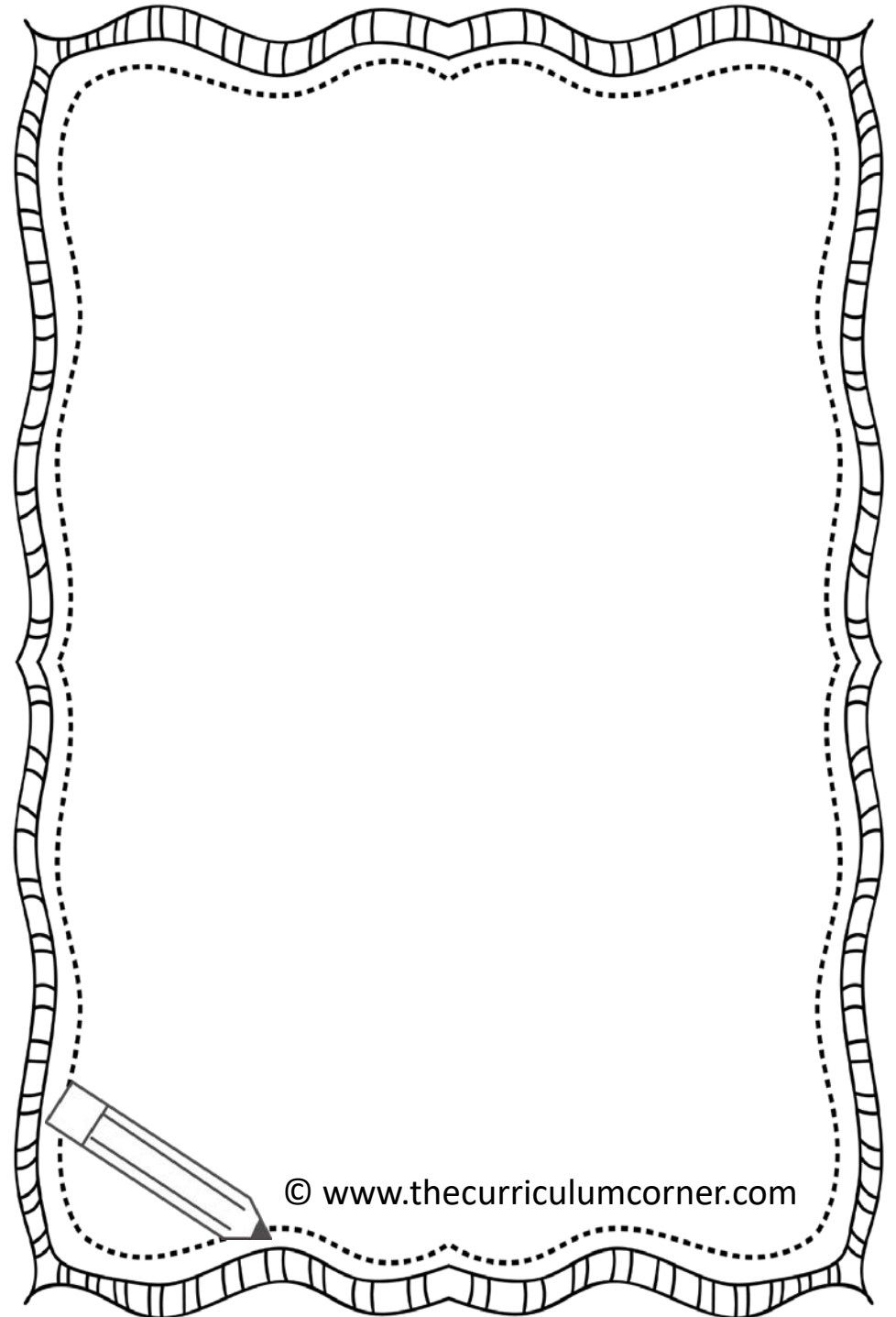
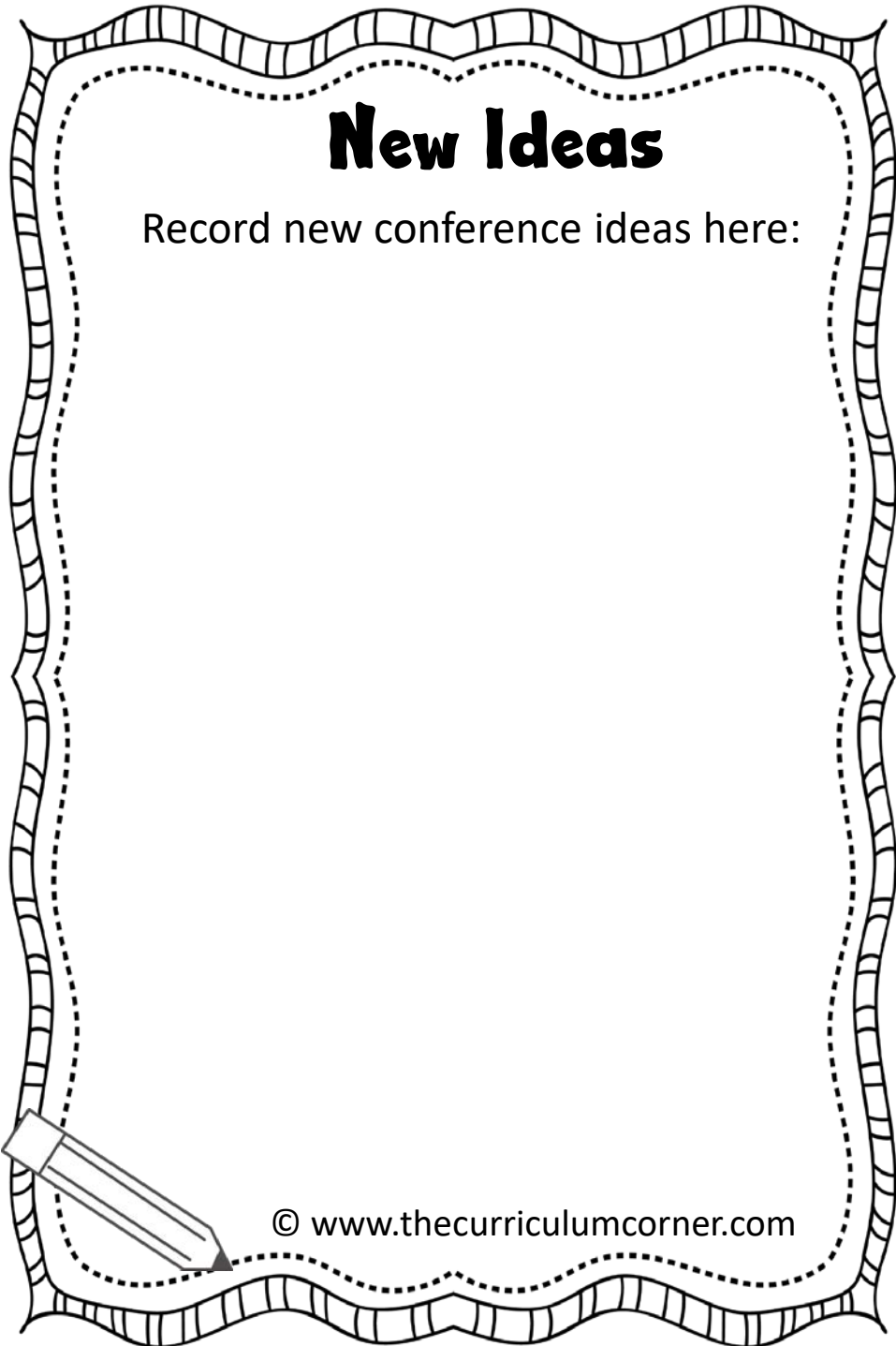
- What is the main idea of your writing? What is the topic?
- How did you choose this topic?
- Share three details that support your main idea.
- Is there a part of your writing that does not focus on your main idea?



# New Ideas

Record new conference ideas here:

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