

Appendix

Writing Workshop Day 3

Sample Mini-lesson 5

Teaching Point: Writers choose a topic that they care about and want to spend more time developing.

Connect: Over the last few days we've been collecting different types of notebook entries. When writers want to choose a topic to write more about, they reread their entries, looking for a topic that they care about and want to spend more time developing. Today, writers, we're going to reread our notebook entries and select a topic we would like to publish. At first, you might find more than one topic that you care about and want to develop, but you'll then need to decide on one .

Teach: Last night, I reread my notebook and put sticky notes on the entries that I care enough about to spend more time on. To sort through my possibilities and choose one topic, I want to be sure to pick an idea that I can envision publishing. I asked myself, "Is this a topic that I really care about and can spend more time with?" or "Is this a topic that I want to share with a specific audience, like my mom?", or "Is this a topic that I can imagine working on to write a "story" about my life with a beginning, middle, and end?" Now, listen as I go through my entries and think aloud how I made decisions about putting sticky notes on the entries I care about and then rereading those entries, asking myself questions, to choose one topic among my possibilities... *Facilitator thinks aloud her process of choosing a topic while flipping through her notebook entries.*

Active Involvement: Take a few minutes to flip through your writers notebook and remind yourself of the entries you've written. You probably already have thoughts about which entries and topics you may want to write more about. Turn and talk to your partner about one idea that stands out so far.

Link: During work time today, reread your entries and put sticky notes on possible topics. Then ask yourself the same questions I asked myself when I chose my topic in order to decide which entry you would like to begin working on for publication. When we come together to share today, we'll hear what topic everyone has chosen.

Sample minilesson 6

Teaching Point: After deciding on a topic, writers gather more entries around that topic. Talking to a partner is one way to get ideas to write more about a topic.

For this minilesson, the facilitator needs to plan ahead of time with a partner to “fishbowl” how asking each other questions and sharing what they want to know more about helps each writer generate more entries.

Connect: Once writers have chosen a topic, they gather more entries around their topic to explore their idea and to develop what they want to say to their readers. There are lots of ways to write more: we can interview people, develop a memory, look at a photo. . . Today, I’m going to show you how talking to a partner helps me get ideas to write more about my topic.

Teach: My writing partner and I are going to “fishbowl” to demonstrate how talking helps writers get ideas to write more about his or her topic. First, my partner and I are going to decide who will share their writing first. Then, the writer will read aloud her notebook entry while her writing partner listens carefully for 1) any questions she has about the topic and 2) anything she wants to know more about. *Facilitator points to prepared chart: Helping my writing partner write more about his or her topic by... 1) Asking questions 2) sharing what I want to know more about.* After the writer has read her writing, her partner will give her new ideas to write more about the topic by asking questions and sharing what she wants to know more about. The writer will take some quick notes in her notebook so she won’t forget what her partner just said and then the other writer will have a turn to read her writing and to get ideas to write about by listening to her partner’s responses. Once we’ve both had a chance to share, we can begin to write a new entry. Watch and listen as my partner and I take turns going through this process.

Active Involvement: Turn and talk about how you noticed talking to a partner helped us get new ideas to write about our topics.

Link: Writers, as you start work today, meet with your partner and decide who will read their writing first. I’ll be walking around listening in, and being sure that each partnership stays focused. Remember, you’re listening for questions you may have and for anything you want to hear more about. Be sure to write down what your partner says so you don’t forget and can use their responses to begin to write a new entry. When we share our writing, we can hear from partnerships who feel that they got great ideas from talking with their partner.