

Appendix

Writing Workshop Day 4 Sample Mini-lesson 7

Teaching Point: Writers create drafts of their writing in order to clarify what they want to say and to begin to organize their writing.

Connect: Writers, we've been gathering lots of notebook entries around our topics. Now many of you are at a place where you'll want to begin to write a first draft. Drafting is a messy and necessary process in order to clarify what we want to say to our readers and to begin to think about organizing our writing. One way to write a first draft is to reread all of the entries we've gathered on our topic and ask ourselves, "What is my topic about? What do I want to say to my readers?" Once I'm clear about what I want to say, I can think about what information to include in my writing and begin to organize my ideas in a messy first draft.

Teach: I knew I'd be talking with you about writing a first draft today, so last night I wrote a draft to show you and share with you how I went about doing it. Watch me and listen as I do a think aloud about the process I went through to write a draft. *Facilitator flips through all the notebook entries written on her topic.* First, I reread all of the entries I gathered on my topic. We've talked about how when gathering around our topics, our writing can lead us to new ideas we hadn't thought about. When I reread my entries on my topic, I noticed I had lots of stuff, some of my writing was on my original topic and other writing became new topics. I realized that in order to write a draft and begin to organize my writing I had to ask myself, "What is my topic about? What do I want to say to my readers?" Hmmmmm. It took some thinking to answer that question, but once I clarified my idea, *facilitator shares idea from her own writing,* I was able to determine what I wanted to include in a first draft. Then I started free writing, on loose leaf paper, double spaced, because I'll need room to make changes when I revise and continue to draft. Drafting isn't simply copying what I've written before, although I'll most likely include parts of previous writing into my drafts. And here's my draft, let me show you how messy it is. *Facilitator shows her draft written on loose leaf paper and double spaced.*

Active Involvement: Take a minute to think about your topic and all of the gathering that you did around that topic. Most of us discovered that our topic went off in different directions. Today, ask yourself, "What is my topic about? What do I want to say to my readers?" The answer may not come to you right away, but begin to think about it.

Link: Those of you who are ready to write a draft, as you go off to work today, reread the entries you've written about your topic asking yourself, "What is my topic about? What do I want to say to my readers?" Once you've answered the questions, give yourself time to free write a first draft. I'll give you loose leaf paper and don't forget to double space so you'll have room to make revisions! When we share today, it will be tremendously helpful to hear from some of you how your drafting went.

Sample minilesson 8

Teaching Point: Writers revise their writing when they “re-see” it with fresh eyes, asking themselves if the structure and words they’ve chosen are just right to get what they want to say across to their readers.

Connect: Writers, your drafts are so interesting! And guess what... your writing can get even better. Writers reread their work and “re-see” it in order to make revisions, asking themselves if the structure and words they’ve chosen are just right to get what they want to say across to their readers. I’ve noticed when reading your drafts, and mine as well, that many of us need to revise with an eye toward “re-seeing” the structure, or organization of our writing. Today, we’re going to talk about one way writers can “re-see” the entire text, not just the words, to think about reorganizing and making changes to the beginning, middle and ending.

Teach: I’ve shared with you my first draft. When I reread it, I realized that I had included a lot of information to reveal my topic to my readers, but that the information wasn’t in an order with a beginning, middle and ending that I liked. Let me show you what I did to play around with the structure of my writing and to make changes. I made a copy of my draft (I want to keep the original the way it is, just in case I’ll need to go back to it) and then I highlighted the main parts, usually each of the paragraphs, then cut them out with scissors. Then I placed each of the parts out in front of me and was able to play around with the structure. Look, I moved the ending to the beginning because I felt like I stated what my writing was about at the end and I wanted to say it right away. I also noticed that I had this one very long chunk in the middle that I want to shorten because I’m afraid I’ll lose the readers’ interest, so I kept it in the middle, but I crossed out the parts I’ll want to delete. I put my previous beginning in the middle because it fits better there. Wow. I noticed a lot I could do to restructure my writing and make it better. Once I played around with it, I taped it together so that I’ll have my new draft to continue to revise. *Facilitator shows her own writing cut and pasted as she offers explanations relevant to her own writing.* I’ve made copies of your first drafts for you so that you can cut and paste like I did and play around with restructuring your writing, thinking about the beginning, middle and ending and changes that you’d like to make. Play around and take some risks to make your writing better. Remember, you can always change it again.

Active Involvement: I made copies of your drafts for you and gave them to you as we got together in the meeting area. Take a look at those drafts now. Skim them over and think about one thing you’d like to try to restructure or change your writing. Turn and talk.

Link: Writers, as you go off to work today, those of you who are ready, take some time to reread your drafts, use the highlighter pens on the tables to highlight the main parts, then cut them out and place the parts in front of you. Play around with restructuring your draft and notice any changes you want to make. I’ll be sure to give you time to share your thinking with your partners today.