

Ohio Literacy Conference for K-3rd Grade Teachers

December 8, 2011 - December 9, 2011

B-10 Conferring With Writers: Building Skills & Confidence (Gr. K-3)

Melissa Leach

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Writing Conferences

Presented for SDE by Melissa Leach

**A Balanced Literacy program includes writing
TO, WITH, AND BY children.**

**To- Modeled Writing
With-Interactive and Shared Writing
By-Writer's Workshop**

Writer's Workshop Format:

- Mini-Lesson (5-10 minutes)
- Rehearsal For Writing (2-3 minutes)
- Kids WRITING/Teacher Conferring (20-30 minutes)
- Kids Sharing Writing (5 minutes)

Writer's Workshop Rules That Have Worked for Me:

- * The most important thing during writing time is...WRITING!
- * Stay in your own seat to write.
- * Do your best work and use a QUIET VOICE!
(What if someone is being too loud?)
- * When you're finished writing, get your _____.
- * Just use pencil... no colors until you publish!
- * Draw quick pictures!

Things to Remember about Conferencing:

We are teaching the WRITER when we have these moments with kids not their WRITING. We want them to learn something that will help them the NEXT time they sit down to write.

We make assumptions of our writers! We give them the benefit of the doubt and sometimes we make up “good things” they did and assuming they know that they did it!



Questions that get STUDENTS doing the talking...

- ✓ *Tell me about your writing.*
- ✓ *What are you working on today as a writer?*
- ✓ *What do you like about your writing?*



Steps to a Conference:

RESEARCH: This is when you are asking ?'s! You are gathering information to see what they need from you! You are driving in the FOG for these minutes.

DECIDE: You are going to have to decipher what it is *that* writer needs most from you *that* day! You can't teach them everything, so you have to pick ONE THING! This is when the fog will clear and you'll see which way to turn.

TEACH: Point out their strengths! Then find *one* thing to help them with!

Be honest, what do you hope for? Jot it down...



Keys to Conferring With Young Writers:

- ✓ Let the **WRITER** keep hold of the pencil.
- ✓ Respond to content first. Respond much they way you would to a postcard that just came in the mail from a good friend!
- ✓ Try to let the **WRITER** do more of the talking.
- ✓ Remind yourself that your role is the guide on the side- your help is only a suggestion- the writer will make the decisions in the end!
- ✓ Resist the **STRONG** urge to “fix” things. Focus on the writer and not on creating the perfect product!
- ✓ Praise the writer for his/her work on the process not just the piece of writing!
- ✓ **LET THE WRITER TEACH YOU**

THREE STARS AND A WISH!





Possible Stars List:



Remember...

- * Our students have stories to tell!
- * All of our students need opportunities to tell their stories to the best of their ability.
- * When we confer, we are helping the **WRITER** and **NOT** the writing!

Websites:

Teaching that Makes Sense:

<http://www.ttms.org>

Mrs. Meacham's Classroom Website:

<http://www.jmeacham.com/writing.mini.lessons.htm>

Name: _____

Writer's Workshop Conferring

Date:	What Did You Write?	Three Stars...	Wish for Next Time...
		☆ ☆ ☆	
		☆ ☆ ☆	
		☆ ☆ ☆	
		☆ ☆ ☆	
		☆ ☆ ☆	
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Conferring With Our Smallest Writers



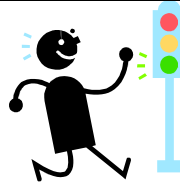
Great Ideas and
Ah Ha Thoughts!



Key Points:



Questions I still have.



What will I go
back and DO
in my classroom?

LIST OF RELATED CITATIONS

“Conferring With Our Smallest Writers”

PRESENTED FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS (SDE)

by Melissa M. Leach

Calkins, Lucy, Hartman, Amanda, and White, Ryder Zoe (2005). *One to One: The Art of Conferring with Young Writers*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Freeman, Marcia. (2003). *Teaching the Youngest Writers: A Practical Guide*. Gainsville, FL: Maupin House.

Ray, Katie Wood and Glover, Matt. (2008). *Already Ready: Nurturing Writers in Preschool and Kindergarten*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.