

Grade 8 Parent Writing Tips

S.T.O.P. is where we'll start. Make your teen debate in a way that builds thinking and respectful relationships. Whether you're debating which movie to see, how to spend free time, or what to have for dinner, have them use the S.T.O.P. technique.

S - Suspend judgment and consider various sides.

T - Take a side.

O - Organize your strongest points.

P - Plan your argument and discuss.

Writing is Evolution: Ask some of the following questions when your teen thinks they're done with an assignment in order to help them see that a first draft is never a final draft.

- Did you answer the question that was asked?
- Where is your supporting evidence and details?
- What is each paragraph's purpose?
- Does your word choice make the meaning clear?
- Which words could be more specific?
- Is there anywhere you can connect to personal experience?
- Could you read your draft aloud to me?

Organization:

- Help your teen use a daily planner to keep track of deadlines.
- Help your teen break writing assignments into manageable chunks with specific deadlines.
- Create a workspace for your teen that is free from distractions including television, telephone, music, and texting. Even a computer that is online is a distraction. Only allow the use of a computer during homework time if the homework expressly requires its use.