

Guidelines for Writing Workshops & Writers' Retreats

Writing Workshops

1. Get out your Writer's Notebook and Workshop Folder.
2. Free write (involves just writing down whatever is on your mind!) in your Writer's Notebook until you feel like you can respond to the prompt.
 - If you do not want to free write and just want to start responding to the prompt—that's okay! Move on to Step 3
3. Write about the prompt in your Writer's Notebook until you feel happy with your response.
4. Prepare your submission for the Writers' Retreat on the Writing Workshop Handout.
5. Put your Writing Workshop Handout in your Workshop Folder.
6. Close your Workshop Folder and place it in the top left-hand corner of your work area to show you are ready for the retreat.
7. If you finish early, you may...
 - Continue to free write in your Writer's Notebook.
 - Create Fiction Fanatics Cards for the board.
 - Read a novel of your choice.

Writers' Retreats

1. Wait your turn to share.
 - Everyone will get a chance to read their work out loud!
2. When it is your turn, read your response out loud so that everyone in your group can hear you.
 - If you do not feel comfortable reading out loud, it is okay to ask your teacher or a friend to read it out loud for you.
 - If you are in small groups, you will not read as loud so that you do not disrupt the other groups.
3. Offer constructive criticism to your peers.
 - Make suggestions, NOT corrections.
 - Helpful starters:
 - I think _____ would be even better if you considered _____.
 - I would like to know more about _____.
 - One way to make _____ even stronger would be to _____.
 - Words to avoid
 - Should
 - Wrong
 - Bad
 - Point out areas of strength so the authors know what they are doing well.
 - I liked how you _____.
4. If you do not get a chance to share but you have something to say, write it down and ask the teacher to hand it to the author later.