

CONFERCING CIRCLE AND BETA READER

This your opportunity to improve editing skills. Editing is when you reread and rewrite text to improve **cohesion of ideas** and **text choices**. Structural edit first, then copy edit to prepare your text for publishing.

Expectations and Procedure

- Come prepared.
- Take turns to share ideas.
- Take your turn with confidence and use polite speech.
- Express an opinion respectfully. There is no wrong answers just *write* ones.
- When giving feedback, provide **two** positive comments for every **one** constructive suggestion.

Tips for Beta Reader Partnerships

When it is your turn to be the beta reader, read your partner's text or listen to their speech. Then you ask questions that will help them clarify their ideas. Use metalanguage to talk about each other's writing. If you are using a *Write On It*, then write comments directly onto each other's draft and make changes during the discussion. Here's some conversation starters for **STRUCTURAL EDITING**:

- . I love the character you are developing. But I am unclear about his relationship with the other two characters. Can you explain it to me?
- . You have a good start here, where you explain about weather patterns, but it's unclear why you are doing it. What is the purpose of this text?
- . Your main character does a lot. You use the conjunction 'and then' a lot. I would like to know your character more. Adjectives will help give me a mind picture of your character. An adverbial phrases like, 'After Michael returned home' – will let me know he is *now* at home.
- . I am not sure how you really feel about this subject because of this sentence. Is it related to your theme?
- . You have expressed an opinion here. What is your reasoning? Why don't you find a quote from an expert to support your opinion – then it will be more persuasive. We have a quote in our notes. Let's ask our teacher for more ideas.

Here's some conversation starters for **COPY EDITING**:

- . Would you like me to help you construct this complex sentence into two simple sentences? I think it will be faster to read which will make it more urgent sounding.
- . Let's get a thesaurus or our Heart Word Inventory to find another word for 'said'.
- . The words I circled in your text aren't spelt correct. I know they are wrong, but I don't know how to spell them myself. If you write them in your 'Have-a-Go' page, our teacher will write the correct spelling for you.

Roles for Conferencing Circle Discussions

Keep the same role for a while or change every week. Your teacher will let you know which.

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

Ensure all participants are prepared with completed preparation and that they remain on task throughout the discussion.

DIRECTOR OF PROCEEDINGS

Ensure everyone has a turn in a fair and timely manner. Call each member to speak when it is their turn.

RESOURCES MANAGER

Before the discussion begins, collect all the resources your group will need. Ensure that everything is put away properly afterwards.