

Never Has Conferring Been So Important: Conferences That Rally Kids to Work with Zeal and Direction

1. Conferring is the one instructional strategy that can lift your readers/writers/artists/mathematicians/musicians level of growth the most
 - a. It's more important than ever; we're losing the connections with the kids; it is crucial for the students and us
 - b. Take a look at what's different and what's the same about conferring right now
2. Practical Solutions
 - a. How can you see student work? Depends on the kid's age
 - i. Tilt the screen down onto the piece of paper to see the writing
 - ii. Take pictures
 - iii. Take a tour of their writer's notebook via video
 - b. Organizing your Virtual Students During Live Lessons with Whole Groups
 - i. Write in the chat boxes what's hard for them
 - ii. I see in our class that we have this issue with our writing right now
 - iii. Host Public Conferring: Have a fish bowl conference with all students virtually
 1. Invite the students to do the same things that you're doing with the student that you are conferring with
 2. Invite the class share other ideas
 3. Try as a whole class
 4. Move back and forth between the student and the entire class; in whole class or small groups
 - iv. Push your students to break out groups; leave the camera on but mute yourself; pop in and out of the groups; kids write more when they are in the presence of other writers
 - c. What matters most in Conferring
 - i. Take stock of how you read student writing; what can I teach this kid? Leads us to what's wrong with this piece
 - ii. Instead think about how you can push them to the next level of their writing; be sure to compliment
 - iii. It is SO important to leave the student writer with even more energy to leave and write; celebrate the great aspects of the piece
 - iv. Celebrate the voice and the strategies that the young writer is already using; if you're going to teach me to write, you have to love me
 - v. Next give them explicit direction to move their writing forward as a writer; add to his/her toolbox as a writer
 - vi. Let me give you a tip...
 - vii. Compliment the new work that the writer has tried. I can tell you are trying to add; very often your compliment and what you want to push the writer forward to do are the same
 - viii. Learn to read student and really practice to see the power of the student writing; what they're trying to do and how you can push them forward
 - ix. Every part of the conference has teaching power
 1. Begin the conference by: What are you working on as a writer?
 2. How are you planning to do this?
 3. Teach kids their role in the conference; tell me what you're trying to do in your writing right now
 - a. Can you show me where you've done that?

- b. What are you planning to do next?
 - c. What's working?
 - d. What's not working?
- 4. What you need to do is teach the kids to read their writing as the reader...
 - a. show them how to research their own writing:
 - b. re-read, research their work, find their own celebrations
 - c. and where they need to grow themselves as a writer;
 - d. help them see their potential as a writer in your compliment
- 5. Share the sample videos with staff to analyze how the conference is conducted to push them as a writer while empowering them as a writer
 - a. [Example Conference with Victoria](#)
 - b. [Another Example of a Conference with an Elementary Student](#)