

Work on Writing

"In helping students tune their ears - and mouths and eyes, even t heir fingertips, their nerve endings- to the glorious range of ways they can string words together, we need to encourage them to fool around, to experiment, to break rules even before they know all the rules. Who ever knows all the rules anyway?" -Judith Rowe Michaels

Day 1:

1.) Why Work On Writing? (discussion)

- Helps us become better readers and writers
- We care about writing and the people who read it.
- Choice of genre and topic.
- Fun!
- Works on fluency of writing.
- *This is in addition to structured writing lessons that are done at a different time during the day.

2.) Modeled focus lesson:

What to do when you are writing and you don't know how to spell a word - underline it and move on with your writing.

3.) Brainstorm the "I-Chart" of appropriate writing behaviors (writing independence)

Students:

- Write the whole time.
- Stay in one spot.
- Work quietly.
- Choice of what to write.
- Get started quickly.
- Underline words we're not sure how to spell and move on.

Teacher:

Work with students.

*Have a few students model writing the correct way.

*Have one student model writing the wrong way followed up with the correct way. (usually someone who would struggle)

*3 minute practice.

*Whole class review/reflection of "I-Chart"

Day 2:

*Brainstorm and practice where to sit.

*Brainstorm and practice what materials to use.

Materials kept in their book boxes

- Notebook
- Pencil or pen
- Drawing or sketching

*Practice time

*Whole class review/reflection of "I-Chart"

Day 3:

*What to write about:

- Make a list of topics
- Make a list of genres (letters, lists, narrative, poetry, reports, persuasive...)
- Post lists for students' reference

*Practice time

*Whole class review/reflection of "I-Chart"

Day 4 +:

*Continue to teach the forms and traits of writing according to your district curriculum.

*Continue to add minutes each day until the desired goal for your classroom is achieved.

What do you do with all this writing??

- Share at the end of the class.
- They can share their writing during "Read to Someone" time.
- They could exchange notebooks and read another student's writing during "Read to Self" time.
- Share during one-to-one teacher conference.
- Take it home and read it to parents.

