

Parents as Writing Partners



Educational Leadership – Writing: A Core Skill (Vol. 71 No. 7)

Parent Prompts to Help Kids Rehearse Their Writing

Basic Prompts

- How will your story/essay/article go?
- Tell me about the parts?
- How will it start?
- Then what will come next?
- How do you think you want it to end?
- What will be the most important moment in the piece?
- What will be the tricky part – where might it get confusing? Let me know when you're at that part and we can talk it out if you want.

More Advanced Prompts

- Try out a couple leads on me. Let's see which ones really get a reader interested.
- What are you thinking about pacing? How will you control tension?
- Do you want to tell everything at once or let out the details bit by bit?
- What do you want your reader to know right away?
- What do you want your reader to wonder about?
- What are you saving for the ending?
- How are you going to tailor this piece to your audience?
- Do you have to explain any vocabulary?
- Is there a particular perspective or point of view you want to represent?
- Will you do anything to acknowledge other points of view in this piece?

Prompts to Help Kids Elaborate

- There was something you said before that struck me.... You have to get that bit in here!
- When you were talking about this, I jotted down this one idea/phrase that was very cool...Is this something you want to add?
- Say more about this one part...
- Wait a second, I'm going to jot down what you're saying... Now take this - see if it works anywhere.
- How did that part we started turn out?
- You know, thinking about how strong this piece is, it might be worth thinking about the beginning (or ending) a little more.