**Parents as Writing Partners**

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

**Parent Prompts to Help Kids Rehearse Their Writing**

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| **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 starred turn out? * You know, thinking about how strong this piece is, it might be worth thinking about the beginning (or ending) a little more. |