**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.
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| **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?
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| **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.
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