

## ***Responding in Writing Circles***

Use these strategies when responding to works-in-progress in your writing circles.

### **Begin positively.**

Comment on writing successes.  
Help to put the writer at ease.

### **Listen thoughtfully.**

Concentrate on the reading.  
Consider what works and what doesn't.

### **Invite the writer to read aloud.**

Ask a writer to choose an effective scene to read aloud.

### **Read aloud from the work-in-progress.**

Ask a writer for permission to read aloud a strong scene.

### **Be truthful and tactful.**

Give sincere praise—false praise is not helpful.  
Be considerate and polite.

### **Make your response constructive.**

Remember that the writing is not finished and that the writer is looking for ways to improve it.  
Be supportive and offer a revision idea without telling the writer what to do:  
“When you do your next draft, you could think about ...”

### **Limit what you say.**

Explain one thing you enjoyed.  
Consider offering a question that suggests revision.

### **Do not tell a writer what to write.**

Remember that the writer is in charge of choosing what to say.

## ***Sharing in Writing Circles***

Use these strategies when sharing your works-in-progress in writing circles.

### **Decide what you want to know.**

Make a brief list of questions for others to consider.

### **Organize your writing.**

Be sure that your draft writing is clear and well organized.

### **Practise for reading aloud.**

Read over your writing before reading aloud the whole thing or an excerpt.

### **Choose your time.**

Feel confident about your writing.  
Be ready for the responses of others.

### **Choose your audience.**

You may form a writing circle of people you trust.  
You may meet with one classmate or with your teacher.

### **Choose how you will share your writing.**

Read aloud and ask questions.  
Give copies for silent reading and then lead a discussion.  
Give copies for silent reading and then ask for written responses.