

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.