

WRITER CONFERENCE STARTERS

How's it going?

What are you writing about?

Read aloud your favorite part.

What part of your piece are you working on now?

Read/Show me what you've written so far.

Identify 1-2 strong words/verbs you've used.

Read aloud your beginning/introduction.

Find your best detail. Read the sentence(s) to me.

We've been working on _____. Find a part where you tried that skill.

PRIMARY & ELL WRITER-CONFERENCE COMPLIMENTS

COMPLIMENTING IDEAS

- You wrote/drew many sentences/details. That shows the reader that you know a lot about this topic.
- You wrote/drew many close-up details. Readers will learn something new from your writing!
- All the sentences/pictures are about (the topic). Staying on topic is important for the reader to understand your message.
- The words you wrote match the pictures you drew. Excellent!

COMPLIMENTING ORGANIZATION

- I see a beginning, middle, and end. You have all three parts of the trait of organization.
- The title ____ tells the reader what this will be about.
- You wrote/drew multiple details *and* put them in order! That helps the reader follow along.
- You connected (this idea) to (this idea) with "then." That helps the reader follow your thinking.

COMPLIMENTING VOICE

- Details like ____ show the reader how you feel about this topic.
- There is so much feeling in this piece. That's a sign of voice!
- When you added the (exclamation mark, underline, all caps) to this part, you tell the reader how important this is.
- You have a lot of voice and feeling in the facial expressions you drew.
- The speech bubbles in your picture give your characters a voice, too.

COMPLIMENTING WORD CHOICE

- (This word) is a purple word/phrase! You have chosen the right word for this part!
- WOW! So many big words stretched out!
- Many writers would use (this word), but you chose (a synonym) instead.
- Telling the reader what something (looks, feels, sounds, tastes, smells) like helps them understand it better.

COMPLIMENTING SENTENCE FLUENCY

- I noticed that you wrote every word that you read aloud. That's a huge step in learning to write so that others can read it!
- These sentences (point to them) all start in different ways. Varying sentence beginnings makes it more interesting for the reader.

- You wrote several sentences— not just one. You have a lot to say!
- You included some long sentences and some short sentences. This makes the writing sound better.
- When you used these different end marks, you tell the audience how they are supposed

COMPLIMENTING CONVENTIONS

- You are stretching out big words in your writing. What a spelling risk-taker!
- You have (capitals, end marks, spaces, etc.) in every sentence. That makes it so others can read it, too!
- When you fixed this part (point to self edits), you helped the reader understand what you were trying to say.

FOCUS ON THE WRITER—NOT THE WRITING

GRADES 2-12 WRITER-CONFERENCE COMPLIMENTS

FOCUS ON THE WRITER —NOT THE WRITING

COMPLIMENTING IDEAS

- All your sentences are about _____. Staying on topic is important for the reader to understand your message.
- You included so many details/much information. This shows the reader you researched/know a lot about this topic.
- Your topic sentence/thesis statement is clear. This tells the reader what to expect in the rest of the piece.
- The prompt required _____ and you addressed that when you wrote _____.

COMPLIMENTING WORD CHOICE

- Action verbs like _____ and _____ add power to writing.
- This description (point to a passage) helps the reader visualize this part.
- (This word) is a purple word/phrase! You have chosen the right word for this sentence.
- The vocabulary words _____ and _____ make you sound like an expert on this topic.
- Using these synonyms (list them) helps this part sound fresh, rather than repetitive.

COMPLIMENTING ORGANIZATION

- Your introduction makes the reader want to keep reading.
- You have grouped similar information together. That organization helps the reader follow your thinking.
- You juggled a lot of information very well.
- Your conclusion reminds the reader of what is important.
- You connected (this idea) to (this idea) with (transition word). That shows the reader how ideas are related.

COMPLIMENTING SENTENCE FLUENCY

- The reader will have no trouble reading this straight through the first time.
- This part (point it out) sounds so good. It's not just *what* you said but *how* you structured the sentence(s).
- When you use (figurative language, parallel structure, repetition, etc.), you make this part sound almost musical.
- These sentences (point to them) all start in different ways. This makes it more interesting for the reader.
- You included some long and some short sentences. This changes the speed of the writing making it sound better.

COMPLIMENTING VOICE

- The reader knows that you feel _____ when you wrote _____.
- This sentence/part right here is especially interesting because _____.
- You're looking at this common topic in a unique/ creative way. That will engage the reader.
- Knowing this is a (genre), the voice/ tone is appropriate for your purpose and audience.

COMPLIMENTING CONVENTIONS

- Your (capitalization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, etc.) make it easy to read this part/piece.
- You went for a bigger, better word here and used your spelling strategies to make it readable. What a risk-taker!
- This paragraph indent comes at just the right place, telling the reader that you are switching ideas.
- Using a comma (or another punctuation mark) here alerts the reader that _____.
- Your audience will appreciate your careful editing. (Point to self-edits.)