



Inspired Writers' Workshop

Writing Genres

Each week, Writers focus on a different genre:

Fiction

1. Realistic fiction
2. Science fiction
3. Fantasy
4. Mystery
5. Poetry

Non Fiction

1. Memoir / autobiography
2. Informational report
3. Persuasive speech
4. Personal letter
5. Blog or newspaper article

Writing Process

Writers complete each step of the Writing Process:

1. *Prewriting*: Writers research and brainstorm their topic.
2. *Drafting*: Writers put their thoughts on paper in a coherent order.
3. *Revising*: Writers give and receive a warm-cool-warm Feedback Sandwich about the use of the Focus Trait within their pieces.
4. *Editing*: Writers participate in a Community of Editors then make final edits to their own writing for spelling and grammar.
5. *Publishing*: Writers share their pieces publicly.

Six Traits of Writing

Each Writers' Workshop emphasizes one of Corbett Harrison's Six Traits of Writing

1. Idea Development
2. Organization
3. Voice
4. Word Choice
5. Sentence Fluency
6. Conventions

Publishing

Each Writers' Workshop starts with a clear publication goal in mind. This could be printing and binding a collection of finished pieces, publicly sharing pieces, or posting writing on websites.

Weekly Writers' Workshop Schedule

90 minute blocks

Writing Days: MWF

Launch: 15 minute Socratic Discussion on either the writing process, genre, or focus trait

Transition Time: 5 minutes

Writing Work Time: 55 minutes

Transition Time: 5 minutes

Closing Group (Debrief): 10 minutes to share based on the questions of the Launch.

Workshopping Days: TTH

Workshop: 60 minutes. This is collaborative time based on the focus trait or writing process. The goal is to build community and build a love of writing.

Peer Critique

Writers follow the Peer Critique Steps below to give each other “warm-cool-warm” feedback on their writing:

1. Sit comfortably with your partner. One is the author and one is the critic.
2. The author reads his/her writing aloud.
3. The critic and author talk about the piece of writing.
4. The critic offers the author one compliment (warm feedback), one suggestion for improvement (cool feedback), and one more compliment (warm feedback).
5. Switch roles and repeat steps 2-4.

Community of Editors

The fourth step of the Writers' Workshop process, Editing, includes a Community of Editors. Writers gather, each taking responsibility for a certain aspect of editing -- often capitalization, inner punctuation, outer punctuation, and spelling. Writers sit in a circle with a printed copy of their work and a colored pen/pencil. They pass their writing in a circle and edit the piece they have been given. They continue passing and editing until they have edited each paper, including their own, for the trait they're focusing on.

Writing Work Time: 30 minutes

Goal

By the end of the workshop, Writers are able to express their ideas in a convincing and clear manner. They write complex sentences with vivid word choice. In addition, they master writing conventions, such as punctuation, capitalization, parts of speech, and consistent grammatical form.