BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION for FAMILY LITERACY

Reading Resource Library
Providing Effective Writing Feedback

This resource supports our other writing materials, which can be found by visiting our Reading Resource Library and viewing:

- ◆ Writing Activities and Resources
- ◆ Writing Engagement Activities

The purpose of this document is to provide resources on providing effective writing feedback to learners.

Importance of Feedback

Growth and improvement are the foundation of learning. Feedback is used in school, the workplace, and even our own lives as a tool for reflection and improvement. To help writers constantly grow and reflect, it is imperative that they are given opportunities for feedback and reflection from themselves, their peers, and their instructor. Effective feedback can promote both personal and professional growth in a variety of ways. "*Providing feedback means giving students an explanation of what they are doing correctly AND incorrectly, with the focus of the feedback on what the students [are] doing right. It is most productive to a student's learning when they are provided with an explanation as to what is accurate and inaccurate about their work*" (USC, 2022).

Methods of Giving Students Meaningful Feedback

There are many ways that meaningful feedback can be given and received for oneself, peers, and educators. Consider using any of the following resources for ideas to give your learners and writers meaningful feedback that fosters growth, improvement, and independence:

- Provide Writer-Friendly Checklists. The following links may help in your writing planning:
    - Effective Adult Learning Toolkit
    - Checking for Understanding
    - How to Teach Writing to Anyone
- Instructional Practices to Optimize Peer Feedback Activities
- Confer with Writers
- Conduct a "Write Around"
- Use the SOAR Method (specific, ongoing, action-oriented, reasonable)
- Use the TAG Format (tell something you like, ask a question about the writing, give a suggestion)
- Two Stars and a Wish
- Providing Constructive Feedback

Writing Conferences

One of the best ways to gather formative data and provide feedback to writers is through writing conferences, sometimes called "conferring." Writing conferences can be done with individuals, partners, or small groups, on a rotating basis. Writing conferences also vary in their purpose. Sometimes, they are meant to only provide feedback. Other times, they are meant to teach and coach the writer. Consider these prompts when conferring with writers:

- "What are you working on today as a writer?"
- "Show me a place in your writing where you are…"
- "Let me show you a trick/tip that will make you an even stronger writer."
- "If I were to suggest that you….in your writing, what would you do to get that started?"

The following resources will help you plan and implement writing conferences to provide your writers with the most authentic and timely feedback.

- [Just Write! Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy: Provide Constructive Feedback](#) (pg. 48)
- [Writing Conferences](#)
- [How to Create an Adult Writing Workshop](#)
- [Empowering Students Through Individual Conferences](#)
- [Five Minute Writing Conferences](#)
- [Guided Writing/Writing Conferences](#)

Rubrics

Rubrics are another great tool to use for student writing. Rubrics are lengthier than a checklist and designed to show writers' progressions in a number of different categories. Rubrics provide both teacher and writer a visual summary of skills and strategies learned and a way to see next steps for improvement. While some attach rubrics at the end of a writing piece for a summative grade, consider giving writers the rubric ahead of time so they can clearly see what is expected of them in different areas and what they need to do to reach their maximum potential. The following links will help support you in planning and using rubrics with writers:

- [Tame the Beast: Tips for Designing and Using Rubrics](#)
- [Kathy Schrock's Guide to Everything: Assessment and Rubrics](#)
- [Cult of Pedagogy](#)
- [Rubrics](#)
- [How to Create a Rubric in Six Steps](#)

Please visit the following links for sample rubric ideas to be used in writing with your learners:

- [Essay Writing Rubric](#)
- [Argumentative Writing Rubric](#)
- [Meet the Single Point Rubric](#)

Additional Resources

- Visit our Reading Resource Library for more Writing Resources
- Reading Resource Library Instructor Planning Materials
- Six Traits of Writing
- Just Write! Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy
- National Writing Project
- Anti-Racist and Anti-Bias Teaching Resources