

Constructive Writing Conferences

Beginning the Conference (A Plan for Learning)

- Student comes prepared to learn from the conference.
- Get the student talking by asking questions, e.g., "Tell me where you are in your writing. What can I do to help you?"

Middle of the Conference (Heartbeat of the conference):

- Choosing a topic
- Focusing or narrowing a topic
- Expanding on a topic to make it more interesting
- Revising for clarify of meaning
- Researching the topic
- Using writing resources, including writer's log and writing notebook
- Revisiting favorite literature to study writing techniques
- Proofreading, including using revision techniques
- Substituting better words to make the writing come alive
- Editing for spelling or punctuation
- Preparing for publication, including layout decisions
- Writing an author's page or a dedication page

End of the Conference (A Plan of Action for the next step):

- Continue with the writing
- Add more details
- Reorganize information
- Start a new piece
- Do some research

Dorn, L. & Soffos, C. (2002). *Scaffolding young writers: A writers' workshop approach*. York, ME: Stenhouse.