

## Table of Contents

### Getting Started

The Classroom Becomes a Writers' Workshop	1
Initial Stimulus or Brainstorming	2
Green Light Rules for Brainstorming	3
Red Light Rules for Brainstorming	3

### Getting Organized

Creating a Plan	4
Sample Essay Outline for an Essay about Television	4
A Rough Draft	5
Revising and Editing	6
The Second Draft	6
Editing and Proofreading	6
The Third Draft	6
Final Proofreading	6
Publishing	7
How Does a Teacher Implement a Writers' Workshop in a Classroom?	7
What Does the Teacher Do With the Writing Time?	8
The Contract	11
Formats and Conventions of Particular Text Forms	12

### Experiencing The Struggle

Teach Grammar, Spelling, Vocabulary and Style	15
Teach Peer Conferencing Skills	16
Giving Good Feedback	17
Receiving Good Feedback	17
Student Self-Assessment: Writing	19
Student Self-Assessment: Writing: End of the Year	20
The Editing Process	21
Frequently Asked Questions	23
Using Different Formats	25
Assessment and Evaluation in the Writers' Workshop	26
Formative Assessment	27
Summative Assessment	28
The Writing Portfolio	29
Cover Sheet for Each Piece of Writing	30

<b>Knowing The Expectation</b>	
The Performance Portfolio	31
<b>The Futures Conference</b>	
The Performance Task	32
Task 1: The Future: The View From Here (200__)	33
Checklists for Futures Conference Presentation: The Process	35
Rubric For Futures Conference Presentation	36
The Work Plan	37
Conference Proposal Form	38
Program For the Futures Conference 200_	39
The Feedback Form	41
<b>The Missing Chapter</b>	
Task 2: Writing a Missing Chapter	43
Process Checklist	46
Product Checklist	47
Rubric: Assessing Missing Chapter	48
The Work Plan	49
<b>A Poetry Anthology</b>	
Task 3: Creating a Poetry Anthology	51
Process and Product Checklists	54
Rubric For Poetry Anthology	55
<b>Interviewing A Rebel</b>	
Task 4: Interviewing a Rebel	60
Process Checklist	61
Script Checklist	62
Rubric for Oral Presentation	63
The Work Plan	64
<b>The Conclusion</b>	68



## Getting Started

**W**hy create a Writers' Workshop in the classroom? An important reason is that in a Writers' Workshop students see themselves as writers, not just as students who have to write on topics the teacher assigns.

The Writers' Workshop is the method of choice employed in university and summer campuses. It is the method used by real writers (e.g., columnists, novelists, poets, reviewers, book publishers). Clearly, it works for writers.

The Writers' Workshop provides an ideal format to:

- develop and improve the writers' skills and thus to improve the quality of their writing
- understand the power of language and learn how to use it to shape their ideas and opinions
- develop a critical eye and present their critique to a peer in a way that is useful and positive for the writer
- help students engage with, take ownership of and enjoy writing.

These years are critical for developing positive attitudes toward writing – lifelong skills and attitudes that can support them in their professions/ jobs and in their own lives.

Students are at different places in their writing. Hence, a more individualized focus is important but realistically must be accomplished in the context of a class with many students who are often from diverse backgrounds. The Writers' Workshop enables students to work at their own speed in an environment that supports the learner and the learning. It is an environment in which the teacher is freed to work with individual students while other students may be involved in peer conferencing or quietly writing.

This book addresses questions teachers have such as:

- what does a Writers' Workshop look like?
- how do I organize my classroom to enable students to move at their own rates and have responses from classmates and from me?
- how do I "cover" the writing curriculum in a Writer's Workshop?
- how do I arrive at a mark/grade? How do I report progress?

## The Classroom Becomes a Writers' Workshop

The writers' workshop is the method of choice employed in university and summer campuses. It is the method used by real writers (e.g., columnists, novelists, poets, reviewers, book publishers).