

WHWN 2018

Authors at All Ages

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Questions Stem and Suggestions for Author's Notes

****Teacher modeling is essential at all ages, but it is especially important for younger students.**

Grades Two to Four:

- 1) What part of my writing made you remember something that happened to you that was almost the same as what happened to me?
- 2) What part of my writing made you want to say “Hmmm.....”?
- 3) What sentences had words that.....made you feel happy, sad, made you laugh, helped you make a picture in your mind?
- 4) What part of my writing did you not understand?
- 5) I like _____ about this writing, but I need help with _____.
- 6) My writing is about _____. Which of my sentences might not quite be about _____ (the topic)?
- 7) This writing was really hard for me. Please give me some ideas of what else I might write about.....
- 8) My favorite part of this writing is _____. What is your favorite part?
- 9) I don't know how to make _____ happen in this story. Please suggest ways that might help me.
- 10) Can you help me figure out how to end this story (writing)? What are two different ways I can end this story (writing)?

Grades Five to Eight:

****With teacher modeling and consistent practice, students in grades seven and eight should eventually write their own author's notes without the use of question stems or suggestions.**

- 1) What suggestions do you have for.....?
- 2) What are ways I can improve the.....?

- 3) How might I write the _____ differently?
- 4) What did you think was the strongest portion of this piece of writing? Why?
- 5) Where are places in this piece that I might incorporate..... (dialogue, details, sensory language, sources, evidence)?
- 6) What are my five strongest sentences? My five weakest?
- 7) List or share the three areas you found most confusing or hard to understand in this piece of writing.
- 8) Can you use the DRAFT strategy to give feedback on this piece?
- 9) This _____ was hard for me because _____. What did you think of this part?
- 10) Please give suggestions on my thesis. How can my thesis be rewritten to be clearer or to better reflect the body of this piece?
- 11) In this piece of writing, I wanted to say _____. What did you hear me saying?
- 12) Suggestions for a new title?
- 13) What can I do to make the plot of this narrative more..... believable, suspenseful, detailed?
- 14) Can you state the theme of my narrative? What can I add to make the theme clearer?
- 15) After reading this informative piece, what information do you still wish I had included?
- 16) I was going for a _____ tone in this piece of writing. Please suggest sentences where my word choice can be strengthened to strengthen the tone.
- 17) What should I add to my thesis to.....make it more argumentative, make it fit the assignment, make it more specific?
- 18) Please evaluate the credibility of the sources used in this piece.
- 19) Please offer suggestions to improve my memorable closing statement. Can it be connected to the lead in a meaningful way?

Grades 9-12

High school students should be able to write their own author's notes with sufficient teacher modeling.

