

Helping Students Find Their Voice
Some helpful hints
(Compiled by Deb DeBenedictis, teach118@sbcglobal.net)

- Choice, choice, choice!! (With a ready prompt for those who initially refuse choice. For example—copy change or haiku)
- Talk, talk, talk!!
- Read, read, read!!
- Write, write, write!!
- Time to draw and daydream
- Authentic, purposeful writing—
 - research
 - opinion piece
 - political cartoon
 - letter writing, pen pals
- Writing buddies (older/younger)
- Use of digital voice recorders
- Begin writing at various entry points—
 - beginning
 - character development
 - ending
 - title
 - climax
 - dialogue
- Write vocabulary used in discussions on board.
- Supply drawing paper, markers, etc.

Learning is a social act...we co-construct knowledge (Vygotsky)

What we think, we can say.

What we say, we can write.

What we write, we can read. (Kempton, 2007)