

Writing Workshop Terms and Vocabulary for Families

Narrative: A type of writing that tells a story. It can be about the writer or about fictional characters. It can also contain magical or fantastical elements.

Information: A type of writing that is designed to inform readers. Reports, informational essays, and feature articles usually fall into this category.

Opinion: A type of writing that is persuasive or argumentative. Many essays, letters, speeches, editorials, and testimonials fall into this category.

Mentor Text: A familiar picture book or trade book that teachers refer to in order to show students examples or strategies they can use in their own writing

Process pieces: Works of writing that students write, revising over several days and integrating new lessons, conferences, or strategy sessions

Polished writing: While we resist the urge to ask for perfect writing, we encourage writers to polish pieces they will share with classmates and beyond.

On-demand Writing: Works of writing that students write over the course of one to two days without input or coaching from teachers. These pieces should reflect what students know and are able to do independently.

Writing Process: A recursive-- and sometimes messy process-- that writers cycle through in order to complete pieces of writing

Generating: Using a variety of strategies to develop ideas and topics for writing, regardless of genre

Drafting: Moving out of a writer's notebook and writing a text on paper or on a keyboard

Editing: Rereading a piece, checking for spelling, punctuation, and sometimes correct word choices

Revising: Rereading and reworking a written piece, deciding on additions, deletions, and alternative passages and word choices

Writing Partners: Classmates who work together throughout a unit and writing process, asking questions, offering reflections, and making suggestions