

Inside writing Communities

Grades 3-5

Talking Revision

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Fifth Grade
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Background

Lindsay introduces a new revision strategy in which her students talk to each other about the pieces they are currently writing — personal narratives — rather than read the pieces verbatim. Lindsay believes this strategy makes students feel part of a supportive writing community. She also thinks it helps them recognize places where they might add information and dialogue to their narratives.

Instruction and Activities

Lindsay asks her fifth-graders to pair up, with each student taking a turn telling his or her story. The other student listens, takes notes, and — when the writer is through talking — asks questions about the story. The author jots down the questions and decides later whether to use them to revise the piece.