

MOTIVATING BOY WRITERS

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Do you ever hear this when it's time for Writing Workshop?



What do we KNOW??

- Boy writers prefer to write about real-life and hands-on experiences. (think of all of those sports stories!)
 - Most of our writing activities do not allow for this.
- Boys want to feel that there is a purpose to what they are doing.
- Boy writers get overwhelmed when teachers overload their writing goals to include writing skills as well as the presentation.
- Need to be **MOTIVATED** to write



So...What can we do to HELP??



Here are a few strategies...



- Pay attention to the feedback provided.
- Use film to support writing.
- Provide "all-boy" writing clubs.
- Allow boys to create their own rubrics.
- Allow boys to talk through their ideas.
- Provide opportunity for boys to draw.
- Design effective writing prompts.

Giving Feedback

- There are TWO different types of feedback teachers typically give to writing students
 - "Process and Praise"- written feedback provided during the process, focusing on what they are doing well.
 - "Product and Rubric"- feedback only after stories have been written, usually only a grade/rubric score.
- Provide positive feedback FIRST
- Give SPECIFIC feedback.
 - It shows that you are paying attention and boys, in particular, need to know that.

Using Film to Support Writers

- "...images accelerate learning for boys because of the more developed areas of their brains which deal with visual-spatial awareness." (Higgins, 2002)
- Try taking a short video and slowing it down, focusing on how the director captured movement, color, music, setting, characters, etc..
 - ▣ Note how students could use this director's perception to slow down their writing and add details
 - Could you integrate this way as well?

Creating 'Boys-Only' Writing Groups

- Have a group of boys eat with you during lunch and participate in a Writing Club.
- Boys need an audience
 - ▣ This also gives them an opportunity to write about and share stories that they have chosen to write.
- Give them feedback as they share their writing with you and their peers.
 - ▣ Learn how to communicate together and give positive and constructive feedback about their writing.

Using Boy-Built Grading Rubrics

- Students will review their notes of the writing concepts taught during that grading period.
- In groups, they come up with appropriate rubrics to assess their learning.
- The teacher will compile those rubrics into a final version and grade writing.
 - ▣ Teachers ask students to choose their favorite pieces for assessment
 - Makes them feel like they have more influence over their
- **Students become more reflective and actually focus to "practice what we preach" (Kelly, 2010)

TALKING?!? There's no talking! There's no talking in writing!!

- *Collaborative writing encourages boys to be confident and prolific writers...able to explain their ideas in written form using abundant details...able to approach a writing task without fear, anxiety, or hesitation..." (Weber, 2010, p. 142).
- Scaffold to increase the amount of collaboration
 - Pre-write collaboratively, discussing and deciding on story elements to include and create stories.
 - Research project where each child is in charge of a particular element of a paper, contributing and collaborating together once completed.
- Writing skill as well as communication skill increases.
- Highly engaged in the process

Blueprinting

- Many stories/ prompts are based on what kids know.
- Ask students to draw a blueprint of their house, labeling different events that occurred in specific rooms.
- They will come up with story ideas based on experiences they have had, which makes them more prolific and engaged writers.
 - Boys feel liberated when they are allowed to draw.



Designing Effective Writing Prompts

- Instead of just giving the prompt...
 - Considerations- statements that define or explain what the topic is or means.
 - Questions- posed to push students to explore the full range of the prompt's possible topics
 - Passages from published authors that could work within the prompt.
 - Past student papers that were written on the specific topic or prompt.
 - Boys need to see examples of previous work.

Contact Information



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Resources

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Resources Cont...

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- Google Images
- YouTube
