

## Constructive Comments Tip Sheet

### How to give constructive feedback to a classmate

1. Read all your partner's writing draft.
2. Ask a question that might make the writing better.
3. Find a tip.
4. Find a compliment.
5. Make a compliment sandwich and say it to your partner in this order: compliment, tip, compliment.
6. Ask your partner, "What will you work on next?" (They should work on the tip you mention.)
7. If your partner doesn't understand the tip, explain what you think needs attention.

Here are some examples of what you might say:

#### Compliments on **Ideas**:

- You have brainstormed quite a few ideas.
- Your ideas are interesting.
- I enjoyed reading about this idea.

#### Tip on **Ideas**:

- Why don't you spend a bit more time thinking about a person, place or thing that holds a memory because so far it's hard to see, hear, feel what you are trying to say.

#### Compliments on **Organization**:

- I notice your story has a beginning, middle and end.
- I notice that your story is evenly paced.

#### Tips on **Organization**:

- I notice that your ending happens quickly. Could you develop the ending so it doesn't feel rushed?
- I notice that your beginning is very long. Does the first section fit with the rest of the story?

#### Compliments on **Word Choice**:

- I see you have used words other than "said" in your dialogue.
- I notice that your descriptive details use words that paint a picture.
- The words you have chosen show the feelings of your characters.

#### Tips on **Word Choice**:

- The dialogue in this piece needs words other than "said."
- Why not take out words like ("cool" "awesome" and "neat") and find words that describe?

#### Compliments on **Sentence Fluency**:

- Your writing uses long and short sentences...variety is interesting.
- I notice you start some sentences with dependent clauses to give the writing variety.

#### Tips on **Sentence Fluency**:

- I notice each sentence begins with a subject and verb. Try starting some of your
- sentences with phrases like, “When...” or “After...” or “Before” or “Just as...” or “As soon as...” (subordinating conjunctions)
- I notice many of your sentences sound short and choppy. Try combining them into longer sentences.

Compliments on **Voice**:

- Your writing sounds just like the way you talk!
- I can hear your voice in my head when I read your writing.

Tip on **Voice**:

- Look over your dialogue and put in some common things people say, like “Oh...” or “Umm...” or “Yessssss!” These kinds of words will give your piece voice.

Compliments on **Conventions**:

- Your punctuation of dialogue is perfect with the comma inside the quotation mark followed by the person who said it, period.
- You know where to put the comma after a dependent clause.
- You understand how to make a new paragraph for each different speaker.
- You understand that when the setting changes, you start a new paragraph.
- You know that proper nouns are always capitalized.

Tips on **Conventions**:

- If you get confused about punctuating dialogue, look at a library book (fiction) that has dialogue and do it that way.
- I notice your piece is in one long paragraph. Did you know that each speaker gets his/her own line on the page?
- I don't see many periods or commas in your piece. Try reading your sentences out loud and notice where your voice pauses or stops. If your voice pauses, use a comma. If your voice stops, use a period.