

Drafting

Once students have gathered and organized ideas for writing, they may begin writing the first draft of their piece. A writing journal or storyboard is a great place to begin drafting a story. Students should have a scheduled time for writing each day.

It is important at this stage to model drafting, especially for younger writers.

During the drafting stage, students should:

- ◆ Focus on meaning.
- ◆ Start putting words together into phrases, phrases together into lines or sentences, and sentences together into paragraphs.
- ◆ Write without stopping to make corrections. Errors can be fixed later.
- ◆ Use invented spelling.

During the drafting stage, teachers should:

- ◆ Write along with students. Keep a journal with your students. Share your writing with students.
- ◆ Be available to conference with students who need help.

Allow and encourage sharing as students work. Promote collaboration among peers. Open communication generates more and better ideas. In a writing classroom, students and teacher form a community of writers.

