

Editing

The editing stage focuses on mechanics. While editing, the author should critically examine the writing piece for mechanical errors. Students should check for spelling, grammar, mechanical and structural errors or weaknesses.

Strategies for effective editing:

- ◆ Peer editors may be a valuable asset when editing written pieces. This promotes collaboration among peers, as well as provides a learning experience for both the writer and peer editor.
- ◆ Student editing checklist will assist students in looking for errors. The checklist will focus the student's attention on mechanics being evaluated, and provide some direction while editing.
- ◆ Most word processing programs have a spell checker and thesaurus, which may be useful as students edit their pieces for spelling. A thesaurus will help a student choose a varied story vocabulary.
- ◆ Many word processing programs enable text-to-speech, giving students the opportunity to hear their written piece. This will help students edit for subject/verb agreement and proper standards of English, as students listen to hear if their sentences "sound right."
- ◆ Quick Word books and student dictionaries are useful tools when editing.
- ◆ Word Walls are often used at the primary level to assist students in spelling unit or high frequency words.

