

Writer's Club Discussion Questions

Literal Questions

- What is this piece about? What are the key points?
- How would you summarize this piece?
- Does the piece address the question or task that was given? The purpose of the assignment?
- Are there any factual or grammar errors that need to be fixed? Is anything missing (words, details, components)?

Personal-Perspective Questions

- How did this piece make you feel?
- If this were your piece, what aspect of it would you be most proud of?
- Did you learn anything from listening to this piece that could help you as a writer?
- Who was this piece written for? Did the writer address the needs and/or interests of the intended audience?

For example: Did the writer explain things in a way that would be easy for others to follow?

Rules of the Writer's Club

1. Everyone reads.
2. Writers choose one or more questions for listeners to respond to.
3. Listeners give additional feedback by choosing other questions to answer.
4. Writers listen to responses without becoming defensive.
5. Writers use what they learn to revise and improve their work.

Follow the guidelines for productive discussions at all times:

Take turns talking, ask and answer questions, listen respectfully to other people's ideas, and build on what other people have to say.

Analytical Questions

- What are the greatest strengths of this piece and why? What could be improved?
- Are the ideas presented and connected in an orderly and logical way?
- How well did the writer fulfill the requirements of this type of piece?
 - How clear and well supported is the writer's position? (*argument piece*)
 - How clearly and accurately is the topic explained? (*explanatory piece*)
 - How clearly and vividly is the event/experience described? (*narrative piece*)
- How does this piece compare to other pieces this writer has composed?

Original-Thinking Questions

- If this piece were a type of clothing, music, or weather, what would it be and why?
- What might be the impact of adding or deleting ___ from the piece?
- What are some possible ways to improve this piece?

For example: How could the writer conclude the piece more strongly, add atmosphere to the story, or make the writing clearer and more coherent?
- Did the writer "paint a picture" with his or her words? Were you able to see what the writer was saying in your mind?