

EDITING CIRCLE IDEAS

Move desks into a circle. Give each student a different colored marker. Each round, give the students something different to look for when editing. The following directions could be displayed on the overhead, showing one step at a time. Switch stories every 3-5 minutes. A student could keep a longer story for a couple of rounds if need be.

1) PRAISE – put stars next to anything you like and write at least one nice comment on each paper

2) QUESTIONS – put 1-3 questions to add more content or to improve content. What could the writer be more specific about?

3) Names first reference: full name and title/grade

Ex: English teacher Lisa Swegle

Sophomore John Paul

Names further references: last name only

Ex: Swegle Paul

4) Punctuating quotes:

“Here’s how to punctuate quotes,” teacher Lisa Swegle said.

“Here’s a sandwich quote,” teacher Lisa Swegle said. “Look how cool this works.”

5) Set up quotes to introduce new speakers. Also, don’t let information be repeated in the setup and quote.

Ex: Teacher Lisa Swegle said she plans to move the Summer Journalism Academy to Harding Middle School. “We have more opportunities available there, so it’s time to make a change,” Swegle said.

Principal Donna Christensen said 80 students have signed up so far. “Journalism rocks,” Christensen said.

6) Paragraphs: every 1 to 3 sentences. A quote works well in its own paragraph

7) Repetition – cross out 1-3 words/phrases!

8) Writer’s opinion in interview news, feature or sports stories – cross out 1-3 opinions!

9) Opinion stories – cross out “I think/I believe”, count the # of I and then help get rid of some (students who don’t have an opinion story, could do another round of one of the preceding ideas)

10) Leads: The first sentence is the most important in the whole story (and the toughest to write.) Don’t let them start off with a question. Look for an interesting fact or something unique from the story that can be moved up.

11) Spelling, grammar errors – read through one last time, just for these

