

# How to Respond to Writing

**FOCUS ON YOUR RESPONSE TO THE PIECE OF WRITING!**

Don't talk about the writing or the writer;  
talk about YOU and how you responded to the piece.

Use "I" Statements (let the writer know how you responded)	
<i>HELPFUL THINGS TO SAY</i>	<i>THINGS NOT TO SAY</i>
"I wanted to hear more about ..."	"I think you should change..."
"I wasn't interested until the part when..."	"I felt you did a good job with..."
"I didn't understand why ... happened."	"I believe that you should..."
"I was excited, scared, confused, etc. when..."	"I thought the paper was pretty good."

Ask Honest Questions (ones that you actually want answered and do not know the answers to)	
<i>HELPFUL THINGS TO SAY</i>	<i>THINGS NOT TO SAY</i>
"Why did you include the part about the frog?"	"Don't you think it would be good to ...?"
"What happened to the grandmother?"	"Wouldn't it be better if you...?"
"When did the car break down? I missed that part."	"Why not cut the part about...?"
"Who did you intend as the main character?"	"Why would anyone want to read...?"

## Other Tips:

- Get to know your group a little before sharing writing and giving responses
- Discuss the "rules" that your group wants to use
- Pay attention while the writer is reading
- Take notes when the writer is talking
- Be positive
- Ask questions about things you don't understand
- Be specific with your comments
- Use examples of things in the writing that made you feel the way you do
- Share your feelings truthfully
- Don't be embarrassed about your response
- Have more than one thing to discuss
- Give the type of response that you want to receive