

Guidelines for Growing Strong Writers

- 1) Create an environment that supports risk.
- 2) Establish a predictable classroom routine.
- 3) Make sure the writing matters to your students.
- 4) Schedule sustained time to write.
- 5) Walk the walk: let students see you write.
- 6) Respond thoughtfully and GENTLY to your writers when you confer with them.
- 7) Celebrate their successes (even the little ones).
- 8) Look for the intelligence behind their errors.
- 9) Listen for voice.
- 10) Use literature to expand their horizons and build vision for what strong writing sounds like.
- 11) Teach the test as A genre – not THE genre.
- 12) Find another writing teacher so you have someone to bounce ideas off.
- 13) Have fun: enjoy their writing!