

What Do I Ask During Writing Conferences?

Thomason (1994) cautions that "every conference is different." He does detail, however, the types of questions writing coaches might ask during conferences. His list will give you a feel for the types of questions you might want to ask at different stages of the writing process.

AT THE PREWRITING STAGE

1. What do you think you'll write about?
2. Why did you choose that?
3. Where will you start? What will your lead be about?

AT THE FIRST-DRAFT STAGE

1. Do you have more than one story here?
2. Underline the part that tells what this draft is about.
3. What is the most important thing you're trying to say here?
4. Explain how your title fits your draft.
5. Can you tell me more about this?
6. This part isn't clear to me. Can you tell me what you mean?
7. Can you describe this for me?
8. What next ?
9. Are you happy with your lead/ending?
10. How does your lead grab your reader's attention?
11. Can you be more specific here?
12. Is this the best word here?
13. Can you think of a different way to say this?
14. What do you think you can do to make this draft better?

15. What works so well you'd like to try to develop it further?
16. What did you learn from this piece of writing?
17. Can you think of something you tried in this draft that you've never tried before?
18. How can I help you with this piece?