

## **Conference Questions**

### **Start the conference with questions to put the student in the lead:**

- How's it going?
- What are you doing as a writer today?
- What can I help you with today?

### **Questions that Nudge Students to say more:**

- Could you say more about that?
- What do you mean by...
- Could you explain what you mean by...

### **Questions that grow out of our knowledge of what good writers do:**

- Have you planned out your draft?
- What's the focus of your piece?
- What kinds of revisions have you made?

### **Questions about students' writing strategies:**

- How are you going to do this work?
- What strategies are you going to use to do this work?
- How are you planning to get started with your draft?

### **Questions that come from what we already know about the students**

- Have you done some of the revision work you tried in your last piece?
- How did you pick the idea for your draft this time?

### **Questions connected to our mini-lesson**

- Have you tried out what we talked about today in the mini-lesson?
- Remember how we talked yesterday in the mini-lesson about revision strategies? Have you used any of them to help you revise?

### **Questions about a student's decisions**

- Why did you pick these places to add on?
- Why did you decide to structure your draft this way?
- Why did you repeat this line several times?

### **How to Decide What to Teach in a Conference**

- What we know about good writing
- What we know about the writing process
- What we know about children and how they grow and develop as writers
- What we've learned about the student as a writer so far in the conference, as well as in our previous conferences with her.