

**NARRATIVE WRITING**  
Feedback on Effort and Progress

Comments	Suggestions
<p>ress in your writing--nice</p> <p>ome as a</p>	<p>I noticed that you didn't finish your story. Let's keep working on using your writing time wisely. I am dying to find out what happens to your characters!</p> <p>ish you'd been able to finish this story. I always love to read your ideas.</p> <p>a creative story! If the topic/prompt was different, you would earn a much higher grade. Unfortunately, the assignment was to write on ____, and I can only write about the things you like.</p>
<p>tions</p> <p>ords in your writing. Your ideas deserve to have precise</p> <p>__ a lot in your story. Would you use synonyms like __ or __? Check for good ideas there.</p> <p>arate our ideas at the words</p>	<p>his story is not your very best. Sometimes when you put forth ideas about what happened?</p> <p>talked about __ in this area.</p> <p>le bit of __ to this</p>

**EXPOSITORY WRITING**  
Feedback on Ideas and Content

Compliments	Suggestions
<p>I loved reading about __.</p> <p>Brilliant idea to include the part about __!</p> <p>I thought it was really interesting that you __.</p> <p>You put a lot of energy into your arguments--well done.</p> <p>Your arguments are very compelling.</p> <p>The point you made/explanation you gave here is so original.</p> <p>Your idea to include __ was wonderful. It made me excited to read what you'd say about it next.</p> <p>You were really thinking hard about this topic, and it shows!</p> <p>This essay was very focused and clear.</p> <p>The details you chose really enhanced your essay and made it interesting to read.</p> <p>I could tell you kept your audience in mind with __.</p> <p>The connecti...</p>	<p>I didn't understand the part about __ that would convey your meaning more.</p> <p>I had trouble understanding what you were trying to help if you __.</p> <p>I love your idea about __. Can you tell me more?</p> <p>I'd like to see you take your idea about __ a little further.</p> <p>I think you could elaborate on __?</p> <p>I wonder if you could make your essay clearer if you __.</p> <p>I'm wondering if it would make more sense if you focused around this idea. How would you write an entire essay about __? Inst...</p> <p>It might be easier for you to write an entire essay about __ if you focus a little bit. What if you wrote only about the where __?</p> <p>There's a lot of things happening in the story, but you only about the ng rid of...</p>

**EXPOSITORY WRITING**  
Feedback on Organization

Compliments
<p>you put a lot of thought into</p>

# FEEDBACK COMMENTS for student writing

by Angela Watson

# Feedback & Comments For Student Writing

## Compliments and suggestions to use when grading and in writing conferences

Does it seem like you give students the same generic compliments on their writing over and over? Do you struggle to find kind, supportive ways to suggest improvements? Have you given up on detailed feedback because it's just too time-consuming to provide?

This document contains hundreds of comment suggestions to help you give meaningful feedback to students on their writing assignments. You can use these comments to help guide your conversations during writing workshop and writing conferences. Or, use them in your written feedback at the top of student work or on sticky notes. These comments can also be used to help describe student writing for portfolio assessments, progress reports, report cards, or in parent conferences.

This 21 page PDF includes one set of the following for narrative writing assignments AND one slightly modified set for expository writing assignments:

- General compliment phrases
- General suggestion phrases
- Specific compliments and suggestions on effort and overall writing progress
- Specific compliments and suggestions for each of the 6 traits of writing: Ideas and Content, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions

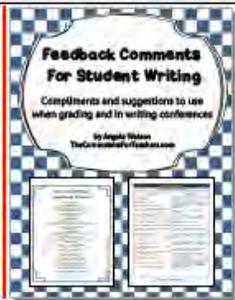
I used the 6 Traits model because it's a simple way to organize the types of feedback. However, you can use these comments with ANY writing system.

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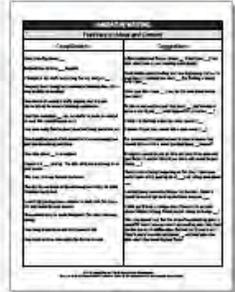
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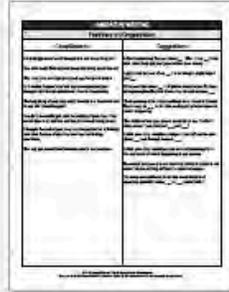
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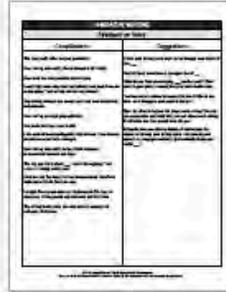
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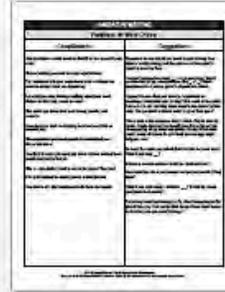
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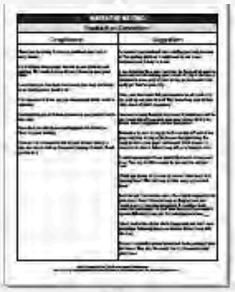
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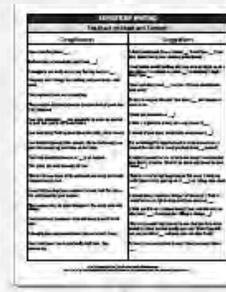
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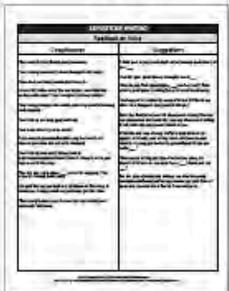
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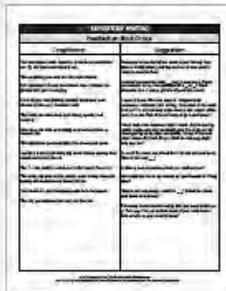
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# NARRATIVE WRITING

## Feedback on Ideas and Content

### Compliments

I loved reading about \_\_\_\_.

Brilliant idea to have \_\_\_\_ happen!

I thought it was really interesting the way that you \_\_\_\_.

You put a lot of energy into creating interesting characters—they're really compelling!

Your choice of setting is really original, and sets your characters up for some interesting experiences.

Your idea to include \_\_\_\_ was wonderful. It made me excited to read what would happen next.

You were really thinking hard about this story, and it shows.

You should be proud of the amount of time and energy you put into developing your ideas.

Your idea about \_\_\_\_ is so original.

I never saw \_\_\_\_ coming. You did a nice job surprising me as your reader.

This story was very focused and clear.

The details you chose really enhanced your story and made it interesting to read.

I could tell you kept your audience's mind with this story—it's well-suited for your readers.

The connections you made throughout this story were very strong.

Your imagination made this story come to life.

Your creative ideas were really fun for me to read.

### Suggestions

I didn't understand the part about \_\_\_\_\_. What if you \_\_\_\_\_? I bet that would convey your meaning more clearly.

I had trouble understanding what was happening at times in your story. It confused me when \_\_\_\_\_. I'm thinking it might help if you \_\_\_\_\_.

I love your idea about \_\_\_\_\_. Can you tell more about that in your story?

I'd like to see you take your idea about \_\_\_\_\_ and develop it some more. Maybe \_\_\_\_\_ could happen? Or you could \_\_\_\_\_?

I think it might help make your story clearer if \_\_\_\_\_.

I wonder if your story could make more sense if \_\_\_\_\_?

I'm wondering if it might be hard to write an entire story around this idea. How would you feel about \_\_\_\_\_ instead?

It might be easier for you to write this story if we narrowed our focus a little bit. What if you wrote only about the part where \_\_\_\_\_?

There's a lot of things happening in this story. I think you could improve it by getting rid of \_\_\_\_\_ and telling more about \_\_\_\_\_.

I started losing interest in this part of the story. I think it would be nice to tighten it up and focus more on \_\_\_\_\_.

I think you'd have a stronger story if you switch out your characters/plot/setting. Would you be willing to change \_\_\_\_\_?

This story sounds very familiar to me/I kept thinking about a movie/TV show I've seen when I was reading your story. I bet you have some incredible ideas that are totally your own! What if you left out the part about \_\_\_\_\_ and used your own idea about what could happen there?

# EXPOSITORY WRITING

## Feedback on Organization

Compliments	Suggestions
<p>I can tell you put a lot of thought into this essay. Nice job!</p> <p>You were really thinking hard about this essay, and it shows!</p> <p>This essay was well-organized and easy for me to follow.</p> <p>As a reader, I appreciated the way you organized your thoughts so I always understood what was happening.</p> <p>The beginning of your essay really hooked me. I couldn't wait to see what you'd write next!</p> <p>I love how you stated your main points in your introduction. That made it easy for me to follow along during your essay.</p> <p>You did a wonderful job with the middle of your essay. Your details kept my attention.</p> <p>You used just the right amount of details to support your points.</p> <p>Your explanations were organized and logical.</p> <p>The way you transitioned between your points was seamless.</p> <p>Your use of transition words was exceptionally strong here.</p> <p>The sequence words you used helped me keep track of each step that you were explaining. Nice job.</p> <p>I thought your conclusion was the perfect fit. It fit really well with the rest of the essay and drove your main points home again.</p> <p>What a fantastic job re-stating your main points in the conclusion. That tied everything together perfectly.</p> <p>The conclusion you used really resonated with me. It made me think deeply about your topic/argument. Well done!</p>	<p>I didn't understand the part about _____. What if you _____? I bet that would help get your point across more clearly.</p> <p>I got a little lost when _____. I'm thinking it might help if you _____.</p> <p>I like your idea about _____. It might be better to put that part in beginning/middle/end of the essay instead because _____.</p> <p>I think it would help your readers follow along if you stated your big ideas in the introduction.</p> <p>The beginning of this essay confused me a little bit. I would like to see you _____ so that the reader gets a better sense of what you're going to write about.</p> <p>The middle of the essay seems mixed up to me. Would it make sense if you switched _____ and _____?</p> <p>Some of your details seemed off topic to me. I think your essay would be stronger if you left out the part about _____ and focused more on _____.</p> <p>I think your essay would be even more convincing if you showed more of what's happening in this section, instead of just telling.</p> <p>Can you give an example here to back up your point/illustrate your explanation?</p> <p>Remember that you can use transition words to signal to the reader that you are moving on to the next step/argument/point.</p> <p>Try using some different transition words instead of repeating the same ones. Maybe _____ or _____ would work?</p> <p>Keep working on your conclusion. You can use it to drive home your main points and leave the reader with strong feelings or thoughts about it. What if you _____?</p>



## BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE...

I'm **Angela Watson**, the creator of this resource. I'm a National Board Certified Teacher with a masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and have 11 years of classroom teaching experience and over a decade of experience as an instructional coach. I currently work as a Productivity and Mindset Specialist in the area of educational consulting. In practical terms, this means I author books, design curriculum, and provide professional development services. Everything I do is centered on sharing more effective, efficient, and enjoyable ways of teaching and learning!

I founded my website ([TruthforTeachers.com](https://www.truthforteachers.com)) in 2003 to connect with other educators. You can now find thousands of ad-free articles and resources there from me and our K-12 teacher-writer's collective.

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