

Common Writing Problems and Questions You Might Consider When Conferencing with A Student

Conference problem:	The topic is too broad.
Teacher's questions:	What's the most important idea in your piece? What is your purpose in writing this? What's the most interesting part of this piece?
Conference problem:	The writing lacks information.
Teacher's questions:	What more can you tell me about your topic? What else might the reader want to know?
Conference problem:	There is no opening.
Teacher's questions:	How can you lead into your story? How can you "hook" the reader?
Conference problem:	There is no conclusion.
Teacher's questions:	How can you end your piece? Is this a satisfying ending? Does the conclusion help your reader get your main point?
Conference problem:	The writing lacks organization.
Teacher's questions:	How can you order your ideas to make them clearer? Are some ideas more important than others? Would a sequence of some kind make sense here?
Conference problem:	The writing lacks unity.
Teacher's questions:	Do all your ideas fit your purpose? What is your main focus?
Conference problem:	The writing is bland and colorless.
Teacher's questions:	Can you tell me what it would be like if I were there? What would my senses tell me? What are some interesting details you could add to this?