

### Conference Research Questions

- Should be open ended, meaning that it can be used in any genre
- Should provide research into what writer knows about writing and help you decide what to teach

Situation	Conference Research Questions
The writing is unfocused	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's the first image you had in your mind?</li><li>• What's your story really about?</li><li>• What are you really trying to show in this piece?</li><li>• Why did you choose to write about this?</li></ul>
The writing covers several events or ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is there something you really want the reader to know?</li><li>• What is your story really about?</li><li>• What is the most important part of this moment?</li></ul>
The writing lacks depth and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can you say more about that?</li><li>• Why is it important to you?</li><li>• Can you make a movie in your mind of this moment?</li><li>• How can you stretch this moment out bit by bit?</li></ul>
The writing contains too much information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is it you really want to show in this piece?</li><li>• Can you show me the heart of your story, the part you feel most strongly about?</li></ul>
The piece just lists information and doesn't contain the writer's thoughts and feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why did you choose to write about this?</li><li>• How did you feel inside this moment?</li></ul>
The lead does not draw the reader into the writing effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why did you start this way?</li><li>• How did you draw the reader into your piece?</li></ul>
The conclusion is too sudden or drags on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What feelings did you want to reader to have after reading your piece?</li><li>• Why did you choose to stop here?</li></ul>
A narrative piece makes limited use of dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How did you express the character's thinking and feelings?</li></ul>
The writing is poorly organized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do you choose to plan your piece?</li><li>• Can you retell your story?</li><li>• Where is the beginning, middle, and end to your story?</li><li>• Tell me your plan</li></ul>
Bringing closure to the conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you plan on working on now as I leave you?</li><li>• What are your steps?</li><li>• Can you show me where you might try this?</li></ul>