

Author's Question Cards: Narratives

Author's Question Cards may be used for revision or for prewriting, depending on your needs/purpose. I use this strategy for both, but I find it most effective with revision. Author's Question Cards provide students with some tangible revision suggestions that are generated by their own words, so students will more readily revise.

1. Give each student a note card (5" x 8" works best—especially with middle school/elementary students).
2. Direct students to turn the card to landscape orientation.
3. On the front write: *Author: Name*
4. Next, write:

I am writing a _____ to _____ about a time when

After reading my _____, my reader should learn that _____

Student Directions:

5. Pick a revision partner.
6. Read the statement on the front side of the card to the partner.
7. Exchange cards with a revision partner.
8. Flip card to the back--portrait orientation (gives you better space to make a list).
9. On the back of the card at the top, write *Reader: Name*
10. Now, the author tells the story (personal narrative/fiction) to the reader.
11. The reader takes notes of keywords and events that took place in the story.
12. After the author is finished telling the story, the reader gets to ask questions to clarify any wonderings/confusion ("Tell me more about you mom.", "Why do you think she reacted like she did?" "Now, where were you when she said that?" "What was your reaction?").
13. Notes are taken on the card of these questions and their answers. The reader can also make any suggestions and write down any comments the writer makes ("Oh, yeah, I meant to add that grandpa was with me." The reader would write down "Add Grandpa".)
14. Now, partners switch roles and repeat the process.
15. Next, the partners take back the original Author's Card and use it to reread and revise the piece of writing. While reading the piece, they check off events/details on the card as they are encountered in the story.
16. With events/details that remain unchecked on the card, the author has to make some revision decisions. What to use/what to ignore/how to work details into current piece.
17. At ALL TIMES, the writer is in control of the revisions to his/her piece. The reader may make suggestions and help with author, but they never take control of the pencil. All of the reader's work is done on the card and through conversation.