“Conferring helps the writer maintain skillful control of the piece.”

Carl Anderson

Kinds of Conferences

* **Content** – What’s this piece about?
* **Process** – Where are you in the process of making this kind of writing?
* **Goal** – Where are you going with this piece?
* **Expectation** – This is how writers work…

Structure of a conference

* **Invite** – How’s it going? What are you working on?...
* **Listen & Notice** – Identify what the writer is doing or intending, notice something being done well and name it
* **Decide** – Decide where to go from here – keeping the types of conferences in mind helps
* **Teach** – Focus on the writer, not just the piece in front of you - “Growing writers…”
* **Plan** – Help the writer shape a plan

Routinely ask yourself…

* What, exactly, did I teach in that conference?
* Why did I decide to teach that?
* How does the student seem to feel about the conference?